IRAN TO-DAY

(ILLUSTRATED)

by

A. B. Rajput

Foreword by

ONSUL-GENERAL FOR IRAN
IN INDIA

LION'S PUBLICATION

They Say!

"The booklet deals with the aspects of modern Iranian economic, social, and cultural relations, her contributions to the world of religion and culture, and her associations with her neighbours, especially India. Mr. Rajput seems to have taken great pains in collecting the latest data and statistics required on the subject.

"It is an illuminating treatise, and throws great light on the various phases of modern Iranian life. The author is not only interested in the Iranian problems as a mere research student, but he loves the people and the literature of the country with which the book deals. I congratulate Mr. Rajput on this achievement, and wish him success in life."

ALI MOTAMEDY
Consul-General for Iran in India

"Brilliant and Illuminating"
—'DAWN', Delhi

"I feel confident that this book will succeed in arousing interest in the progress made by Iran during the last two decades"......

Dr. I. H. QURESHI
Professor and Head of the Department of History, University of Delhi

Rs. 3/-

Waheeda Akhtar

IRAN TO-DAY

" The first of the good lands and countries which I, Ahura Mazda created, was the Aryana Vaijo. . ."

Vendidad, I. 3. (5)



H. I. M. THE SHAH OF IRAN, WITH
QUEEN FOWZIEH AND PRINCESS SHAHNAZ.

IRAN TO-DAY

BY

A. B. RAJPUT, M.A.
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Archæological Survey of India
Post-Graduate Research Scholar in the Universities of Delhi and Nagpur

Pirzada Abd. Saeed
Multan

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To

THE GREAT IRANIAN NATION

DEDICATED

WITH LOVE, DEVOTION AND RESPECT

از تو ای دوست نگسلم پیوند　　ور به تیغم برند بند از بند

الحق ارزان بود زما صد جان　　وز دهان تو نیم شکرخند

پند آنان دهند خلق ایکاش　　که زعشق تو میدهندم پند

[illegible]

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

A.G.D.	*Administration Generale Des Dounes. Report.* (Tehran, 1945)
A.G.Y.	*Ajanta by G. Yazdani, 2 parts.* (London, 1930-3)
E.H.	*Iran in the Ancient East by Ernst E. Herzfeld.* (Oxford, 1942)
E.S.	*Modern Iran by L. P. Elwell-Sutton.* (London, 1944)
G.B.I.	*Guide Book on Iran by G. H. Ebtehaj, Ministry of Interior Iran.* (Tehran, 1935)
Geo III	*Kitab-i-Jughrafi, Sal-i-Seom, Ministry of Education, Iran.* (Tehran, 1319 [S])
Geo IV	*Kitab-i-Jughrafi, Sal-i-Chaharum, Ministry of Education, Iran.* (Tehran, 1321 [S])
I.I.	*Iran-i-Iqtesadi by Rahim Zadeh Safavi.* (Tehran, 1308 [S])
P.N.H.	*Pliny's Natural History (Translated.)* (London, 1942)
P.P.	*The Pageant of Persia by Henry Filmer.* (New York, 1936)
R.A.G.F.	*Report of the Administrator-General of the Finances of Iran (Sept. 23—Oct. 22, 1944)* (Tehran, 1945)
S.A.C.	*Statistique Annuelle Du Commerce Exterior De Iran En, 1322 (S) (21 Mars, 1943 a 20 Mars, 1944).* (Tehran, 1945)
S.R.	*The Silk Road by Sven Hedin.* (London, 1939)
T.I.	*Tarikh-i-Iran by Abdullah Razi Hamadani.* (Tehran, 1308 [S])

FOREWORD

AS I had the opportunity to point out at the inaugural session of the standing committee of the Indo-Iranian Cultural Society held recently in New Delhi, the cultural relations between India and Iran date back from the dim past, and they have had a unique position of intimacy and closeness during all ages. Under the Mughals these relations culminated into a wonderful new culture which breathed the true spirit of both Iran and India. Iranian influence penetrated to the core of India's cultural and social life and found expression in beautiful works of art and literature. Even to-day, in spite of the diverse and vast problems of modern life, there are hundreds of thousands of Indians whose interest in the history of Iranian civilisation has not diminished and who display an extraordinary love for the literature and fine arts of Iran. The names of

Saadi, Hafiz, and Khayyam still inspire the intellectual class of this country with a thrill of admiration, and the social developments and cultural problems of Iran still excite their deepest interest.

Among one of these lovers of the Iranian art and culture is Mr. Allah Bakhsh Rajput, whom I have had the pleasure of knowing for some time. Mr. Rajput has immensely impressed me by his intellectual pursuits and scholarly habits. He is a research scholar in two Indian universities,—those of Delhi and Nagpur,—and simultaneously holds the office of the Curator in the Delhi Museum. He possesses an innate quality of critical and analytical outlook, and as a research scholar, he will, I hope, contribute something original to the problems he has taken up in hand. For the last ten years he has devoted himself to research on various phases of the language, literature, history, and archæology of Iran, and as a result thereof, he is already the author of *The Pre and Proto History of Khurasan*, *A History of Iran*, and a book in Persian language dealing with the development of the Literature of Iran; and is now

writing a number of books on the Iranian drama, poetry, and modern prose, besides making a research on the prehistoric civilisation of Baluchistan and the Indo-Iranian border-lands. Mr. Rajput writes fine modern Persian, and his knowledge of the classical Persian literature is also truly vast.

The present booklet is an expansion of a paper read by him at a meeting of the Islamic Research Association, Delhi, on the occasion of the Nauruz festival on the 21st March, 1945, where I had the opportunity to be present myself. It deals with the aspects of modern Iranian economic, social and cultural conditions, her contribution to the world of religion and culture, and her association with her neighbours, especially India. The author seems to have taken great pains in collecting the latest data and statistics required on the subject. It is an illuminating treatise, and throws great light on the various phases of modern Iranian life. The author is not only interested in the Iranian problems as a mere research scholar, but he loves the people and the literature of the country with which the book deals. I congratulate Mr. Rajput

on this achievement, and wish him success in life.

ALI MOTAMEDY
CONSUL-GENERAL FOR IRAN
IN INDIA

New Delhi :
24th April, 1945.

INTRODUCTION

The history of cultural relations between India and Iran can be traced to pre-historic times; yet ever since the downfall of the Mughal Empire, the peoples of India, with a few exceptions, have ceased to take an enlightened interest in the affairs of Iran. This indifference has been unfortunate, because Indian history is, at times, unintelligible without an understanding of Persian history.

The visit of the Iranian Cultural Mission to India has awakened some interest in Iran. The Government of India has constituted a standing committee for the cultivation of closer relations with the land of Hafiz and Sadi. Other circles, too, have shown a new interest in the affairs of Iran.

A small group of educated Muslims, organized as the Islamic Research Association of Delhi, requested one of their members, Mr. A. B. Rajput to read a paper on Iran. The nucleus of this book was read before that Association in the form of a paper. Mr. Ali

Motamedy, the Iranian Consul-General at New Delhi was present by special invitation, and he was good enough to participate in the discussion and answer a number of questions. At his suggestion the author undertook to expand his paper and this book is the result.

I feel confident that this book will succeed in arousing interest in the progress made by Iran during the last two decades, and I hope that a new interest in Iran will lead to a closer co-operation with that great country.

I. H. QURESHI

University of Delhi,
the 10th May, 1945

PREFATORY NOTE

Iran To-day was originally written for the occasion of the *Nauruz* festival this year at the suggestion of a number of friends, and at a very short notice. The paper was read on that day at a special meeting of the Islamic Research Association, Delhi, held under the Presidentship of Khan Bahadur M. Zafar Hasan, O.B.E. After the meeting it was suggested that the paper should be expanded into a book; but owing to the scarcity of paper, it was not possible to expand it to the extent desired by my friends. I, therefore, present *Iran To-day* in a slightly improved form only. I am fully conscious of the deficiencies, but I crave the indulgence of the reader for the reason that the book has been written under great difficulties.

For the production of the present work, I have to thank Aqai Ali Motamedy, Consul-General for Iran in India, for encouraging me to write about modern Iran, for supplying me with the latest information about the country and for his very kindly writing the Foreword. To my revered teacher Dr. Ishtiaq Husain Qureshi, Head of the Department of History in the University of Delhi, I am highly obliged for a number of valuable suggestions and for writing the Introduction. To Col. Wheeler,

Director, Publicity Section of the Department of Information and Broadcasting, and Mr. Greaves, his able Production Officer, I am thankful for the kind loan of most of the photo-blocks reproduced in the book. To Diwan Sahib Khem Chand and Professor A. S. Ahsan, I am indebted for advising me regarding the plan and general get-up of the book. To M. Hifz-ur-Rehman, M. Hafizullah, and Mirza Aziz Beg, the Treasurer, Secretary, and the Publicity Officer, respectively, of the Islamic Research Association, Delhi, I am grateful for their kind help in various ways.

I have also to thank the Director-General of Archæology in India for his kindly permitting me to publish this work in the present form, and the Meteorologist, Karachi, for supplying me with the latest available rainfall figures appended in the book.

Lastly, I must thank my most energetic friends, Messrs. K. A. Alam, Mohd. Siddique of 'Bhogals,' and Ch. Sultan Ali of Khalchian in making necessary arrangements for printing, and Mr. S. A. Latif of the Lion Press, Lahore, for piloting the matter through the press.

Library Road, A.B.R.
Delhi, the 10th May 1945.

N. B.—The Royal Iranian insignia of *Sher-o-Khurshid* (the Lion and the Sun) is reproduced on the cover of the book with the permission of the Consul-General for Iran in India.

CONTENTS

I

Iran

IRAN is one of the most romantic wonderlands upon the surface of the earth. The very name 'Iran' or 'Persia'[1] brings to one's mind a galaxy of romantic and hoary names like those of Zoroaster, Darius, Naushirvan, Firdausi, Umar Khayyam, Saadi, and above all Hafiz with his purple wines of Shiraz, ethereal music, fairy dances and lovely maids blossoming into the first spring

[1] *Iran* is the proper name of the country about which lithic records from the most ancient times also bear testimony. In Avesta (Vend: 1, 3, (5), it is called *Aryan Vaijo* or the land of the Aryans. Iran means 'the land of the Aryans' as is too often described in the cuneiform inscriptions of the Achæmenian Emperors. "The name 'Persia' is due to an accident of history that made the province of Pars or Fars, the Greek 'Persis,' predominant in Iran at the time when the attention of the Greeks was directed towards it." (Levy, Persian Lit., p 5). Consequently, in 1934, the Iranian Government officially declared "Iran" to be the proper name of their country. But the adjective 'Persian' still continues to be applied particularly to the language of the country, and the Gulf in the south of Iran. It is for the simple reason that both of them are directly associated more with Pars or Fars than with Iran,—the one for its origin in, and the other for its proximity to, the said province.

of their youth. Iran boasts of a very ancient culture, and the more we study its history and archæology, the better we get convinced[1] of her claim. Iran appears to have been one of the early seats of the Aryan tribes which thence spread out over their neighbouring lands reaching India in the east and Europe in the west. Further, this land has been extremely fertile in raising new religions, and nearly every generation of Persians has had her prophet. Zoroastrianism, Mithraism, Manichænism, Mazdakism, and Shiism are no unworthy contributions which Iran has made to the world of religion. Next, the eternal contributions of this country to art, architecture and culture in general are in no way less enviable.

"Persia was probably the original home of some of our most common fruits and flowers, and it is indubitable that to Persia the English language owes such words as rose, jasmine, lilac, narcissus, peach, asparagus, spinach, orange, cypress, musk and myrtle. Other common English words derived from Persia are magic, paradise, peacock, rice, tapes-

[1] P. P. *p.* 28.



Darband, a suburb of Tehran.

try, tiger, azure, candy, checker, chess, julep, lemon, sugar, caravan, and caravanserai."[1] It has, thus, since the very dawn of history, been the torch-bearer of culture and a progenitor of languages, arts and crafts. The Iranian enamel work, miniature-painting, silk and carpets are known all over the world for their beauty, fineness and high artistic value. The cultural and trade relations between Iran and India have been of special interest. We can trace this contact since the prehistoric times, say from about 3,000 B.C.—a date when, as the modern research has revealed, flourished the great Indus Valley Civilisation Here, from the archæological relics, we find distinct traces of a cultural affinity between India and Iran, particularly northern Khurasan. This contact between the two countries continued throughout the long span of historical times. Many an Iranian king visited India, and exchanged gifts and articles of pleasure like the chess with the *nard*, and the dancers, artists, physicians and philosophers, with her soldiers, sages and sacred books. We next see the rise of the

[1] E. H. *p*. 9.

great Achæmenian Empire in Iran whose famous members,—Darius the Great, and Xerxes—actually ruled over the North-West Frontier of India and parts of the Punjab and Sind. During this age the two countries exercised a long and lasting influence upon one another. Architectural, linguistic and religious contact became very distinct, and appreciable. Next comes a span of the legendary period. Here again we see a mutual intercourse in the visit of Bozurj Mehr to India, and the marriage of a local prince's daughter with Behram Gur, and the discourses of Naushirvan with Indian sages. Then followed the diffusion of Buddhism into Iran from India, and an exchange of ambassadors[1] and scholars of note. After this the Islamic period in India owes a good deal to Iran in culture, social life, language, religion, customs and manners. We find a flood of information upon each of these aspects from the accounts of the reign of almost every king in this period, right from the Ghaznavids down to the decline of the great Mughal Empire. During this period

[1] *See* A. G. Y. I, plate XXVIII, and note about it.

Indians become more and more Iranian almost in every walk of their life. Persian language dominates the court and the street; Firdausi, Rumi, Saadi, and Hafiz become words of everyday talk; while Nauruz, Mihrgan, and Khurramruz find important place among local festivals. Religious ideas infiltrate into India; mystic schools like those of the Chishties, Qadiris, Naqshbandis, and Suhrawardis find a fertile field and a congenial atmosphere in India. The Mughal Empire shows the Indo-Persian blend at its height,—artists, engineers, architects, town-planners, garden-layers, painters, poets, damsels, nautch girls, boys, slaves, wines, musk-melons, pomegranates, grapes and other things too numerous to mention come to India in huge caravans. The court glitters with Persian jewels,—generals and scholars, the palace smells the wines of Shiraz, the harem resounds with the silver-belled giggles of the Persian beauties, and the bazaar outshines the markets of the east with Persian merchandise. Traders in these neighbouring lands find a brisk market. The people, thus, weave out the Persian ways of living for

themselves ; they don the Persian *chughah* and the *ammamah*, relish *biryani* and *kabab* upon the table, squat upon Persian carpets, recline against the ballooned bolsters, and enjoy the verses of Saadi and Hafiz. They left us, thus, a rich heritage of the eternal bonds of friendship and fraternity between India and Iran—" nations that have, in the past, so generously and liberally contributed to each other's culture and civilisation." It, therefore, behoves us now to keep up our social, cultural and economic ties with that noble neighbour of ours. With a population of over 15,000,000 souls, and an area of about 630,000 square miles, Iran offers to-day a huge field for the establishment of a trade-link with India. There are untold possibilities for the development of the country's mineral, agricultural, and industrial resources. Bright prospects, thus, lie in store for an enterprising spirit in virgin fields of coal, iron, copper and lead mining ; silk, jute and textile industries, or sharing in still bigger projects like the railways, road construction, irrigation, electricity and town-planning schemes. The country offers an

open sesame to the trader, capitalist, and the industrialist alike. The Iranians are very hospitable, intelligent, helpful and friendly towards foreigners, especially Indians. Thus, by reviving the old contact with her neighbours, Iran to-day lays the foundation of her happiness and prosperity in the post-war world, and let us hope that she attains her due prominence in the economic sphere of to-morrow !



Hotel Ramsaroya, Mazendran.

II

The Land

THE country of Iran lies upon the great highways of Asia leading from China, Central Asia,[1] Afghanistan and India to Russia, Iraq and the western world. For ages its towns have bustled with traders of diverse nationalities, with cart and camel loads of the wares of the east and the west. There, in Iranian markets, they met and exchanged their respective commodities. The geographical position of Iran, naturally, favoured[2] her becoming an 'exchange-centre' for the eastern world. Chinese merchants, travelling from different trade-towns of their country by the famous "Silk Road," never went beyond Iran, although the Chinese silk found its way to the palaces of the Roman and Greek emperors of Europe. Likewise, merchandise from India and the south-eastern

[1] See S. R. *p*. 231. [2] I. I. *p*. 102.

lands used to be carried up to the Iranian marts by the land or sea-routes, and thereafter the merchants did not feel inclined even for palpable profit to go beyond their established business centres of the country. These trade-links have affected the country in various ways, about some of which we shall speak shortly.

A glance at the map will show that the Iranian plateau lies between two narrow strips of water,—the Caspian Sea in the north, and the Persian Gulf in the south. Geological experts are of the opinion that the Caspian Sea, like the Mediterranean and the Black Sea, formed at one time a part of the great ancient ocean called Thetys,[1] which, as the result of a great geo-physical disturbance, got divided into so many strips, and brought out the Alps, Caucasus, Alborz, and the Himalayan ranges upon the surface of the earth. By this disturbance the waters of the Caspian Sea and the Persian Gulf were disunited leaving their traces, here and there, upon the sands of the Iranian plateau. In the south, Iran was connected with Arabia, but

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[1] Geo. III *p.* 200.

by the recession of the Indian Ocean it got disunited, and separated by the formation of the Persian Gulf between them. Further disturbances after the formation of the Iranian plateau, mostly of a volcanic nature, widened the Gulf between the two lands.

Iran to-day is 630,000 square miles in area, and comprises 1/334 of the surface of the globe, or 1/25 of that of Asia, or more than double the size of Turkey, and five times that of Great Britain. Its length from Gwater in the east to mount Ararat in the west is 1,374 miles, and breadth from Sarkhas in the north-east corner, to the north of Shatt-el-Arab in the Persian Gulf is 871 miles. The country possesses natural boundaries of mountain ranges of Khurasan and Alborz in the north, the Hindukush and the Suleman in the north-east and east respectively, the Zagros and the hills of Kurdistan in the west, and the coastal hills of the Persian Gulf and Baluchistan in the south and the south-east respectively. About one-half of the total land is mountainous, and of the other half only a fourth is cultivable, the rest being salsaginous and desert regions. Fortunately

for Iran, its desert area is more valuable for its natural resources, of which we shall speak in Section V. Upon the whole, the country is not very fertile. The interior of the country is a huge barren desert, with biting cold during winter and scorching heat during summer. When we go up from the Gulf towards the capital in the north, we cross the plateau studded with scorched and treeless hills interspersed occasionally with small plantations forming oases where villages and towns exist.

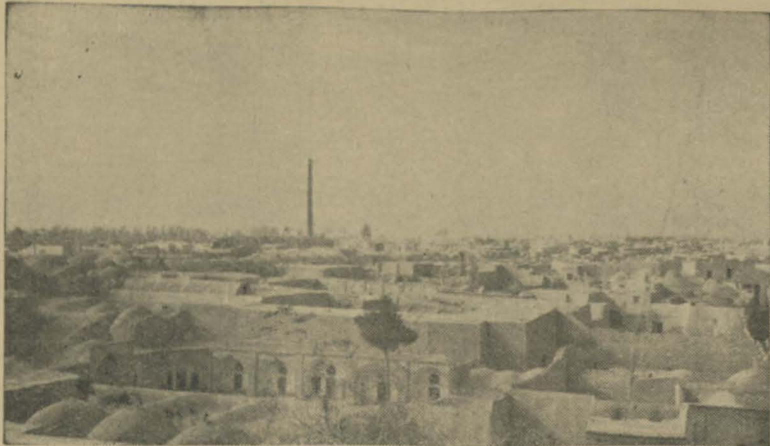
In the absence of its being in proximity to an open sea, the plateau of Iran lacks in humidity, on the one hand, for its falling beyond the reach of the moist sea-winds, and on the other, for its being intensely affected by the dry local winds. The mountains standing high around the country also form a barrier against the infiltration of any moisture towards the plateau. Besides, the high altitude of the Iranian plateau, and the nature of its soil with an excessive proportion of lime and salts helps a good deal in making the country dry. Iran, therefore, is considered as one of the arid regions of the

world. ‘ With the exception of the Caspian watershed and that of Rezaiye basin, the country has probably in no part a yearly rainfall exceeding 13 or 14 inches, and throughout the greater part of the central and south-eastern Iran the yearly rainfall is probably under 6 inches. Along the shores of the Caspian the average precipitation is from 30 to 50[1] inches; along the Persian Gulf, in spite of meagre precipitation at certain seasons, the climate is very humid.’

Climatically Iran can be divided into three distinct regions :—

(1) *The Caspian Region.*—The ‘green-ribboned’ valley running along the border of the Caspian Sea in the north, and stretching down as far as the giant range of the Alborz mountains in the south. Herein the northern winds loaded with heavy vapours of the Caspian Sea break against the Alborz heights and relieve themselves off by pouring down their waters. The area, thus, enjoys an extraordinary amount of rainfall, and one finds large-scale cultivation, and gardens and orchards teeming with trees laden with

[1] G. B. I. *p* 25.



A bird's eye-view of Isfahan.

fruits and flowers throughout its expanse. The green fields are followed further south by an ever-increasing foliage and shrubbery of the veritable jungle along the Alborz range 'encompassing the whole of Mazanderan and Gilan. The jungle, semi-tropical in character, filled with the incessant chattering of millions of bright-plumed birds of innumerable varieties . . . has its origin in the peculiar atmospheric conditions brought about by the conjunction of the high Alborz mountains with the Caspian Sea.' The climate of this region resembles that of the Mediterranean areas—mild in winter, and cool in summer. Gilan, Mazanderan and Gorgan are the three provinces comprising this region where most of the country's agricultural and industrial products like rice, tobacco, cotton, flax, jute and tea are grown. A very large number of mulberry trees also grow in this area which are of great use in rearing silk-worms. The Alborz forests supply most of the timber used in the country. Ash, beech, box, cypress, elm and oak are the commonest trees. Among the fauna we find bear, fox, leopard, wolf, and even wild boar. The Caspian

region is famous for the most valuable varieties of fish in the east. The best known, however, are the sturgeon and the delicious caviar, which are exported from there to different parts of the world.

(2) *The Great Iranian Plateau.*—It extends from the walls of the Alborz in the north to the Zagros ranges in the south and the west, and embraces the Afghanistan and Baluchistan borders in the east. It is a great desert area of about 150,000 square miles whose dryness and salinity militate against the possibility of any growth of vegetation. The mountainous regions in the north and the north-east get only an occasional shower of snow-flakes which serves to cover the slopes with a carpet of verdure; but further south the main table-land envelops you with the bleak and barren atmosphere of the desert created by its rugged, sunbaked and treeless form with huge salt areas scattered here and there. This area of Iran is reported to be one of the most dry regions upon the surface of the earth. The little population located about the oases is usually of shepherds or cameleers. The country is completely barren with the excep-

tion of a few oases having date-palms, acacias or wild shrubs. But, as mentioned above, this area is of great importance for its mineral resources like iron, copper and lead mines in the north, and oil-fields in the west and south-west.

(3) *The Gulf Area.*—This narrow strip of land is sandwiched between the southernmost hills of the great Iranian plateau and the coast of the Persian Gulf. It is nearer the tropics ; the sea tempers the weather and makes it hot, damp and sticky, often conducive to the development of malaria. The population is sparse. Precipitation is low. The soil is rich; the south-western area is alluvial, and owing to the existence of a number of large streams, it is being intensely cultivated. The chief products are wheat, sugar-cane, tobacco, cotton, opium, dates, and *hena* leaves. The south-eastern extremity of this region is barren, and is occupied by the Baluchi nomads only. Gazelle, fox and jackal are the wild animals, and water-fowl, goose, duck and partridge are the usual game birds met with in this area.

Taken as a whole, the climate of Iran, with

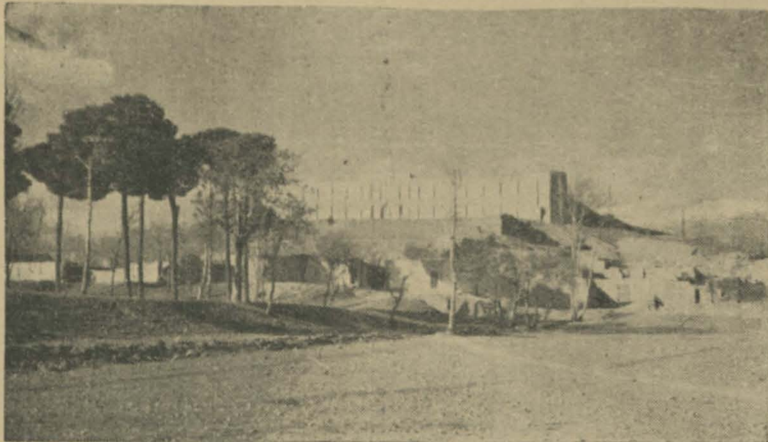
the exception of the Caspian region, is dry.[1] Precipitation is very low, and is almost extinct for eight months in the year. The climate, therefore, is very hot during summer, and equally severe during winter.

[1] *Geo. III, p. 229.*

III

The People

IRAN has, since the very dim past, been the habitat of man. It has been conclusively proved from the tools and implements found from the hills of the southern Iran that human beings existed in this part of the world before the dawn of history. From the graves of the black-skinned men found in the Alborz mountains, a number of anthropologists are of the opinion that in prehistoric times when the climate of Iran was very hot and humid, the region was inhabited by a negroid race; but thereafter more civilised races like the Sumerians and the Elamites, and the Assyrians and the Babylonians appeared respectively in the south and west of Iran. It appears further from the archæological evidence that the Sumerians existed in Iran somewhere about 3,000 B.C. It also appears



The Qasr-i-Qajar, Tehran.

that there existed a contact between Sumeria and Elam with the trans-Caspian culture, and for this reason it is considered that the Sumerians came down towards the Persian Gulf and Babylon probably from the north.

The name 'Iran' bears etymological affinity with the word 'Aryan.' Antiquarians are of the opinion that the Aryan tribes inhabiting the great plateau of Central Asia began a southward movement into Iran in the late 16th or early part of the 15th century B.C. Unlike the other prehistoric migratory tribes, the Aryans had two peculiar traits in themselves,—their movement was in successive waves of migration from their original home towards the south-east, and the west, continuing down to the 8th or 9th century[1] B.C., and their action after conquering the local population in the new lands was constructive rather than destructive. They settled there with their belongings making new homes for themselves. They introduced the horse into Iran, which they had domesticated in their Central Asian steppes, and engaged themselves in agricultural and

[1] T. *I. p.* 5.

pastoral pursuits in their usual course. The most famous of the Aryan tribes inhabiting the Iranian plateau were the Medians and the Persians. In 612 B.C. there arose the Median Empire which brought all other tribes under its suzerainty. 'The Median supremacy was comparatively short-lived, for during the 6th century B.C. the other branch of the Aryan invaders began to come into prominence and to thrust out in either direction.'[1] The Persians are regarded as the real ancestors of the modern Iranians since it was under them that Iran first became a great nation. The first Persian chief of the region was a certain Hakhamanish or 'Achæmenes.' Hence the name Achæmenian has been given to the rulers of this line. It was Cyrus the Great of this dynasty who completed the conquest of Media in 550 B.C.

The Achæmenian dynasty came to an end by the defeat and death of Darius III at the hands of Alexander in 330 B.C. A new racial element was introduced into Iran after the conquest of Alexander. It were the Greeks whose amalgamation into the Iranian blood

[1] E. S. *p.* 18.

continued till the end of the Seleucids. The conquests of the Parthians and Sassanians, and the consequent expansion of the Iranian Empire brought a large number of foreign nations under the direct influence of Iran.

After the downfall of the Sassanian Empire in 632 A.D., Iran fell into the hands of the Arabs. A large number of the Arab families migrated to Iran, and had indiscriminate racial contact with the Iranians. At the end of the Samanid period the Turkish tribes of the Thian Shan hills, the northern Khwarzam, and the northern parts of the Caspian Sea began to revolt, and descend southwards towards Iran. The ultimate conquest and defeat of the Samanids at the hands of the Turks in 998 A.D., the establishment of the Ghaznavid Empire, and the arrival of the Saljuks,—themselves a branch of the Turks, clearly points out the degeneration and downfall of the Aryan prestige in Iran.

The inroads of the barbarous Mongols, and the destruction of the ancient Iranian cultural remains are the abominable deeds of the Mongols of the period of Changiz and his immediate descendants. It was as a result

of these inroads that the inhabitants of Iran were compelled to adopt the nomadic and wandering life hitherto non-existent among them. Under the Safavids (1499-1722 A.D.) progress and regeneration breathe a new life into the country. During this period the racial amalgamation took place more extensively due to the migration of people to various parts of the country offering richer fields for agriculture or industry; but this had not gone a long way off when the trouble from the Afghans, and invasions of Nadir Shah became a cause of destruction and exhaustion of the Iranian nation.

From the official records[1] it appears that Iran had a population of about 50,000,000 souls during the Qajar period, but unfortunately it has since then been on the wane. Its obvious causes were the famines, epidemics, and lack of medical aid which compelled most of the population to migrate to other adjacent countries during the course of time. Iran, therefore, is underpopulated to-day; the land waits to be taken up and brought under suitable use. If we leave out

[1] *See* G. B. I. *p.* 25.

of account the desert, salsaginous, and mountainous areas of Iran, even then the country possesses something like 311,000 square miles of fine cultivable land ; and if we take an average density of 195 heads per square mile as that of India, it will show that Iran can easily accommodate more than 60 million people upon agriculture alone, but due to the aforesaid reasons the population of Iran to-day does not exceed 15 million. The density of population is only 25 people to a square mile, as compared with 468 in Great Britain, 195 in India, and 54 in Turkey. To-day the question of helping and encouraging an increase of population is of vital interest with the Government of Iran, for underpopulation means empoverishment and weakness of the nation. Towards this end the Government is, by a Royal proclamation, directing every effort upon the population question, the public health, the spread of education and culture. Hospitals, orphanages, welfare-houses, and free-milk bars have been established to check the death rate, especially among the infants. Besides, the establishment of schools and colleges, and the



The Avenue Sipah, Tehran.

introduction of proper educational methods are quite helpful for instructing people about the simple rules of hygiene and self-protection. The medical college started in Tehran, will, it is hoped, help a good deal in fighting the disease in the country.

The majority of the people of Iran obtain their livelihood from agriculture and allied occupations. Industries support hardly 1 to 1·5 % of the population; but the bulk of the rest are engaged in 'unorganised' local crafts connected with the supply of personal and household necessities, or simple implements of work. It is true that except for the Caspian Sea region the land is not over-fertile, and that there are huge barren areas with which probably little can be done. Nevertheless, the 15 million inhabitants of Iran can live at a much higher standard by properly developing the important agricultural districts. Recently a scheme has been suggested[1] even for the irrigational development of the huge salt-lands and desert areas which form no less than one-third of the

[1] *See* Dr. Behrami's article in 'Salnameh Pars' for 1324 Solar, (1945 A.D.), *pp*. 105-12.

total area of Iran. The scheme, if approved and put in force, will turn miles of waste into green fields, and support a very huge number of the population. " Iran has also one great asset—its oil. And it is evident that its mineral wealth is considerable. There is no reason why this wealth, used and exploited for the benefit of the country itself, should not enable it to support a larger population than it has at present, and at a higher standard of living. Much depends, of course, on their being left in peace to work along these lines, and this will only be possible so long as Iran, like so many other small and progressive countries, does not fall a victim to the greed of powers whose false philosophies blind them to the real needs of the individual, wherever he may be."[1]

The typical Iranian has bold features. He is tall, robust, active, and well formed. He has black hair, heavy eye-brows, long nose and small and firm chin with a general bearing of resolution and pride. The peasant and the tribesman, used to an open-air life, has a ruddy complexion and fine physique so

[1] E. S. *p*. 13.

characteristic of the Aryan race. He has frank manners, and is fairly truthful. He looks on courage as the highest virtue, and hospitality as a sacred duty. Even the humblest villager would not grudge to offer you lodging under his own roof, and offer you a square meal of *chilau kabab,* brown bread, milk, eggs, and fruit. He is normally a ' peaceable, and imaginative ' person, with a love of art and poetry. He is ' talkative and eloquent, and his great delight is to sit with friends in a tea-house, ' drinking endless little glasses of sweetened tea and talking of this and that ; for this reason many have thought them to be lazy and inefficient. But these characteristics are liable to be misleading. It is expected that a race brought up under the hard conditions imposed on them by Nature should be admirers of the more heroic qualities, fighting men, lovers of sport, and thess qualities are a part of the Iranian make up. . . As to their fighting qualities, it is a fact that whenever the Iranian nation has seemed most depressed, most unlikely to rise again, she has invariably awoken and thrown off the oppressor—a

point over which her more aggressive neighbours have sometimes made serious miscalculations.'[1]

Islam is the predominating religion in Iran. Out of a population of 15,000,000, about, 14,000,000 belong to the Shia faith, and about 900,000, mainly the Kurds of the north-western mountain areas belong to the Sunni faith. The official religion of Iran, according to the Constitutional Law of 1907, is Islam, and the true sect is the Ja'fariya, recognising the twelve Imams. Of late, the official policy has been to forego all the differences between the above-named two branches of Islam, and to unite the people under the single name of Iranians. It was distinctly with this idea of the Shia-Sunni alliance that the marriage of the Crown-Prince (now the Shah) was arranged and executed with the Princess of Egypt. Other religions are represented by 80,000 to 90,000 Christians, 36,000 Jews, and about 9,000 Zoroastrians. In Iran to-day one finds an attitude of friendliness and co-operation with members of all religions. The people have got their forces

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[1] E. S. *p*. 14.

combined more in a form of 'nation-worship' than anything else. This movement came in fact from Europe to Iran through Turkey. The Ottoman Turks were the first among the Islamic people to get this new lesson of nationalism or *Wataniyyat* through the propaganda of men like Shinasi Effendi and Mustafa Kamal, which ultimately culminated in the formation of the Young Turks' Association, and the consequent birth of Modern Turkey.

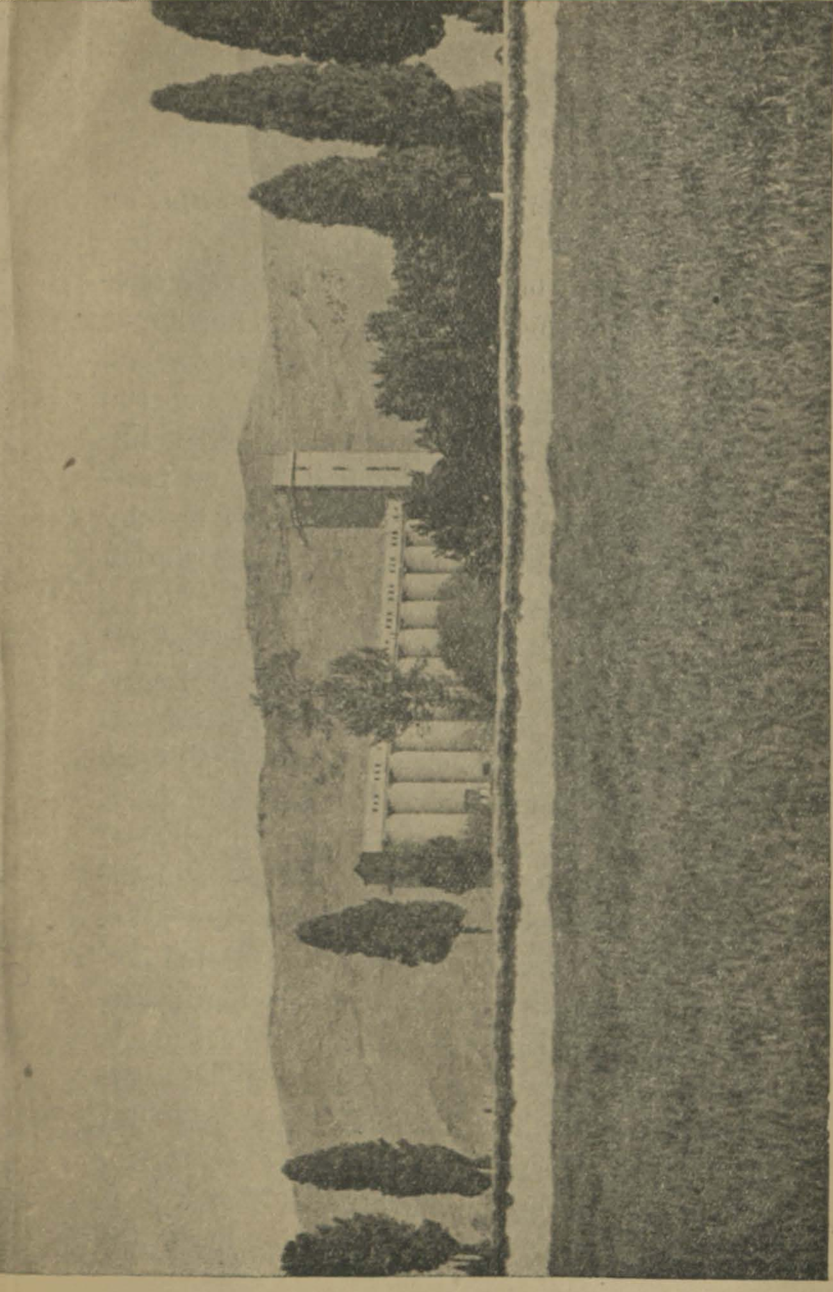
IV

The Shah, the Government and the Capital

HIS Imperial Majesty Mohammad Reza Pehlavi, the present Shah of Iran, was born at Tehran in the year 1298 A.H. Solar (1919 A.D.). His early training commenced at Tehran under the personal supervision of his father, the late Shah ; and at the age of six he was sent to the Tehran Military School, where he underwent a full course of military training, extending over a period of six years. During this period, he was taught by his special tutors, not only subjects relating to his own country like the history, literature and language of Iran, but was also given a good training in the French language and Geography of the world. In 1310 (1931 A.D.) he proceeded to Switzerland for higher studies, and joined the Rosey School at Geneva, where he was imparted

both intellectual and physical training, and was awarded prizes and medals both for book-studies and games. After completing his education at the said school, he returned home in 1315 (1936 A.D.), and began to take a keen and active interest in the Boy-Scouts Movement, and the reorganisation of schools and farm-houses on modern lines. Enthusiast by temperament, he toured extensively over Iran to put his schemes into working order. In the same year he joined the Tehran Military Academy and went through an arduous training with the common cadets for a period of two years, passing out with great distinction. He played several games during the course of his training, and was always the leader in riding, skiing and swimming contests. Football was his favourite game, and in fact, it is mostly due to him that this game has attained so much popularity in Iran.

His marriage with Princess Fowzieh, the sister of the present King of Egypt, in 1939, was an event of great importance in the Islamic world. For the first time in modern history the relations of two great Islamic



countries were cemented by matrimony amidst universal rejoicings.

As the Shah of Iran, he has proved himself a wise and benevolent ruler, munificent in helping the charitable institutions, and generous in extending aids towards the good of his subjects. 'A modernised and industrialised Iran, a happy, contented and prosperous nation, and a cultured and healthy generation,—are the ideals that light the path of His Majesty.'

The work of Government is directed by the Shah through a Cabinet, presided over by a Prime Minister. The Cabinet consists of twelve ministers chosen by the Shah upon the recommendation of the Prime Minister. The ministers are responsible, individually and jointly, to the Parliament, (Mejliss) and the Prime Minister. The Parliament consists of a single House of 130 members elected normally for a period of two years. Since there is no Upper House in the Iranian Parliament, all bills passed by it are sent up direct to His Majesty for his final approval. The Iranian Government to-day is really the people's Government inasmuch as the Shah

does not possess the usual veto power to reject any bill. In matters of great difference of opinion, he can dissolve the Parliament and call for fresh elections.

The Parliament is the true representative of the country, having its members as the representatives of various parties in the country, like the Itihad-i-Milli, Adalat, Todeh, Mihan, etc. These parties represent different shades of opinions in the political sphere of the land.

Tehran has been the seat of the Government since 1788 A.D.,—the time of Agha Mohammad Khan Qajar. It was then a small town of about two square miles in area and possessing a population of hardly 15,000 souls. Life in that tiny place must have been very quiet then. Later on Nasir-ud-Din Shah Qajar, having extensively travelled over Europe, made great changes in the lay-out and construction of the capital. But it is to the Pehlavi regime that the city owes its magnificence and grandeur. Tehran to-day is the city of parks, orchards, palaces and colossal buildings, notable among them being the House of Parliament, the

Bank-i-Melli, the University, the Orphanage, the Ladies' Art Centre, the Municipality, and the offices of the Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs.

The city has been rebuilt upon a carefully planned scheme of wide streets provided with electricity and having shady trees along each side running in parallel rows. Three of the most beautiful streets have recently been named after Churchill, Roosevelt, and Stalin to perpetuate their memorable and historic visit to Tehran in December, 1943, of which we shall speak in the last Section of this book.

Beautiful suburbs have grown up at short distances from the capital where the population is fast increasing.

V

Resources

THE dry, salsaginous and barren plateau of Iran is of great value and importance for the potential mineral resources which have yet to be properly explored. The mineral deposits of Iran are sufficient to make her one of the leading industrial countries in the world; but up till now, practically very little has been done for their development. The establishment of better means of transport like railways, will, it is hoped, stimulate mineral productions. The mineral resources of Iran include coal, iron, copper, manganese, gold, silver, zinc, lead, cobalt, sulphates, and oil; but so far they have just been 'tapped'. Coal is being worked out at Meshhed, Shemshak (near Tehran), Zirab, Giland-rud (in Mazenderan), Alika, and Fariman; iron at various places in Gilan, Mazenderan, Semnan and Zenjan;

copper at Anarak, Sebzwar, Abbasabad, and Qazvin; manganese at Rabat-i-Karim and Shahriyar; sulphates in Semnan; lead in Damghan and Meshhed; and turquoise at Nishapur. Besides, precious stones like jade and ruby; crystal; and metals like silver and gold are known to have existed in Iran since very early days[1]. One record says[2] that Roman miners were employed to work out a gold mine during the Sassanian period, but it is not known whether any gold was exported from the country.

Mining of the deposits of ores and metals, washing gold dust, and finding out silver from the lead, or melting copper-ore have, up till now, been done on a very poor scale by individual enterprise. There is a huge field for organised work, first in locating, ascertaining and evaluating various kinds of mines in the country, and thereafter working out those which may be worth the efforts, with the help and contact of the Government. A number of coal, iron, manganese, lead and copper mines are being worked out at present on contract basis.

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[1] *See* P. N. H. [2] *Cf.* I. I. *p. 83.*



The Bank-i-Melli, Tehran.

There are two distinct oil-bearing areas in Iran; one on the south-western edge of Iran along the Persian Gulf, with Abadan as its centre, and the other on its western frontier in the vicinity of Kermanshah. Iran today is one of the leading oil-producing countries in the world. She exported 8,436,047,388 kilograms of oil worth 3,277,525,012 Rials[1] in

[1] For the comparative values of Iranian currency see under the head, 'Finances,' in Section VIII.

the year 1943. Her contribution, thus, comes to about 20% of the total requirements of Great Britain. The internal needs of the country are satisfied by the refinery at Kermanshah. "From it petroleum products of all kinds are distributed throughout the country to depots in all the large towns... Most of these centres have grown up in places where no kind of settlement existed before, and the (*Anglo-Iranian Oil*) Company has therefore had to provide housing and other facilities, not only for its 3,500 odd foreign staff (mainly British and Indian), but also for the majority of its 20,000 Iranian employees, who are slowly but steadily superseding the foreigners. Hospitals, clubs, playing fields, cinemas and shops—as well as houses—have sprung up in the empty desert or on the sides of barren mountains."[1]

Among the most valuable natural resources of Iran must be reckoned the great forests of the Alborz, 'whose character is largely governed by rainfall and elevation.' These forests provide a very good supply of the ash, beech, box, cypress, oak and willow

[1] E. S. *pp*. 106-7.

wood besides scores of local varieties for various industries, timber and firewood. Very little seems to have been done in Iran in utilising these resources for productions like lac, tanning materials, essential oils, turpentine and resin. A factory has recently been started for making and supplying sleepers for the rail-road in Iran.

Iran grows a large variety of vegetable products belonging to the temperate and sub-tropical zones. About one-third of the country is cultivable, and the present Government is taking active measures to introduce modern methods of cultivation for the improvement of the crops. Many Crown lands have been sold to private individuals with the purpose that the people should have greater association with the land, and thus help in producing more and better crops. Among food-grains, wheat, barley, and rice are the chief products of the land. About 2,000,000 tons of wheat, and 750,000 tons of barley are produced annually in Iran. Rice is mainly grown in the Caspian regions of the country, and the annual produce is about 500,000 tons.

The other items of the production are: (*a*) cereals, (*b*) fruits, (*c*) industrial products like beet, cotton, tobacco, jute, sugar-cane, tea, and poppy-seeds, and aromatics like saffron, rose and *hena* leaves. The following are the export figures[1] for the year 1943-44:

	tons	Value in Rials
Cereals ...	368	3,494
Fruits (fresh and dry)	10,169	122,046
Cotton (in 1942 only, as after that the total production is consumed by the factories working in the country).	4,737	32,422

Tea and sugar are not meant for export from Iran. The following are the total production figures for the year 1943-44:

Tea ...	3,300	tons
Sugar ...	22,519	,,

Among the miscellaneous items under this sub-head, we have two important products in opium and silk. About 5,000 tons of opium is produced annually and exported

[1] From S. A. C.



Memorial in the Bagh-i-Shah, Tehran.

mostly to China, Malaya, and Europe. The Government shows a keen interest in the production of silk, and in reviving the old silk industry in the country. About 641,785 kilograms of silk worth 9,136,605 Rials was exported in 1943-44.

Tobacco and tea are the two new items of production in Iran. The former is a Government monopoly, and its production is

being daily increased. Tea-plantation was started some years back by Chinese experts at Lahijan. A drying factory has also been set up there. A number of agricultural schools and experiment stations have been established for developing the country's agricultural products. A five-year agricultural plan was launched by the Government in 1940. 'It provides for an increase of 500,000 tons in the cereal crop and 200 to 500% increase in tea, sugar, beet, jute and flax. Further projects include the erection of fertiliser plants, more irrigation schemes, the importation of merino-sheep to be crossed with native breeds, and extensive afforestation. To impress public opinion with the value of the last, March 15 has for some years been kept as a tree-festival.'

The importance of stock-breeding has not yet been fully appreciated in Iran. The major demands for butter, wool and meat are met with from the stock of cows, sheep and goats; and the minor for the draught and pack-animals, etc., are met with from bulls, horses, mares, ponies and mules in the country. The following are the latest

figures of the livestock available :--

(*a*)	Cows	...	1,406,024
	Sheep	...	13,711,157, and
	Goats	...	6,999,394
(*b*)	Bulls	...	1,508,126
	Horses	...	142,870
	Mares	...	162,453
	Ponies	...	1,174,109, and
	Mules	...	52,466

Total products under this head are as follows :—

Butter	...	16,075	tons
Cheese	...	5,320	,,
Wool	...	12,554	,,
Skins	...	3,121,145	Nos. and
Guts	...	3,066,846	,,

Fish is of immense importance as an article of export in Iran. The Caspian region contains some important fishing centres from where some of the most valuable varieties of fish like the sturgeon are obtained. A Russo-Iranian concern known as "Mahie Iran" has got the sole monopoly of the fisheries in this region. It exported 3,262,322 kilograms of fish worth 5,081,781 Rials to U.S.S.R. in the year 1943-44.

VI

Industrial Development

AS in the case of agriculture, in the Industrial supplies as well the Government of Iran wants to make the country independent. For the last twenty years there has been a constant urge for encouraging and expanding local industries through protective tariffs, monopolies, etc., because the contemplated development of industries will not only bring about an even distribution of population among a variety of occupations, but also benefit the Government for the simple reason of the increased 'taxable capacity' of the people.

Iranian industries may be divided into two classes: (*a*) Handicrafts and (*b*) Organised industries working on modern lines in factories and workshops. Of the handicrafts class, we have carpet-making, silk-weaving, embroidering, metal-working, wood-carving and miniature painting. Iranian carpets are

well known for the superiority of their quality and fineness throughout the world. The Government is, therefore, conscious of the need of maintaining the standard of this industry by imposing an embargo upon the export of carpets made with cheap chemical dyes and other poor materials. It has established weaving schools to teach and maintain the workmanship and the well-tried methods of the industry. The administration of Industrial Supervision is endeavouring to increase the domestic output of handicrafts. As the demand for cotton piece-goods generally exceeds the present output of the existing mills in the country, the said department has adopted a policy of encouraging textile weaving, and controlled the movement of raw cotton available in Government stores.[1]

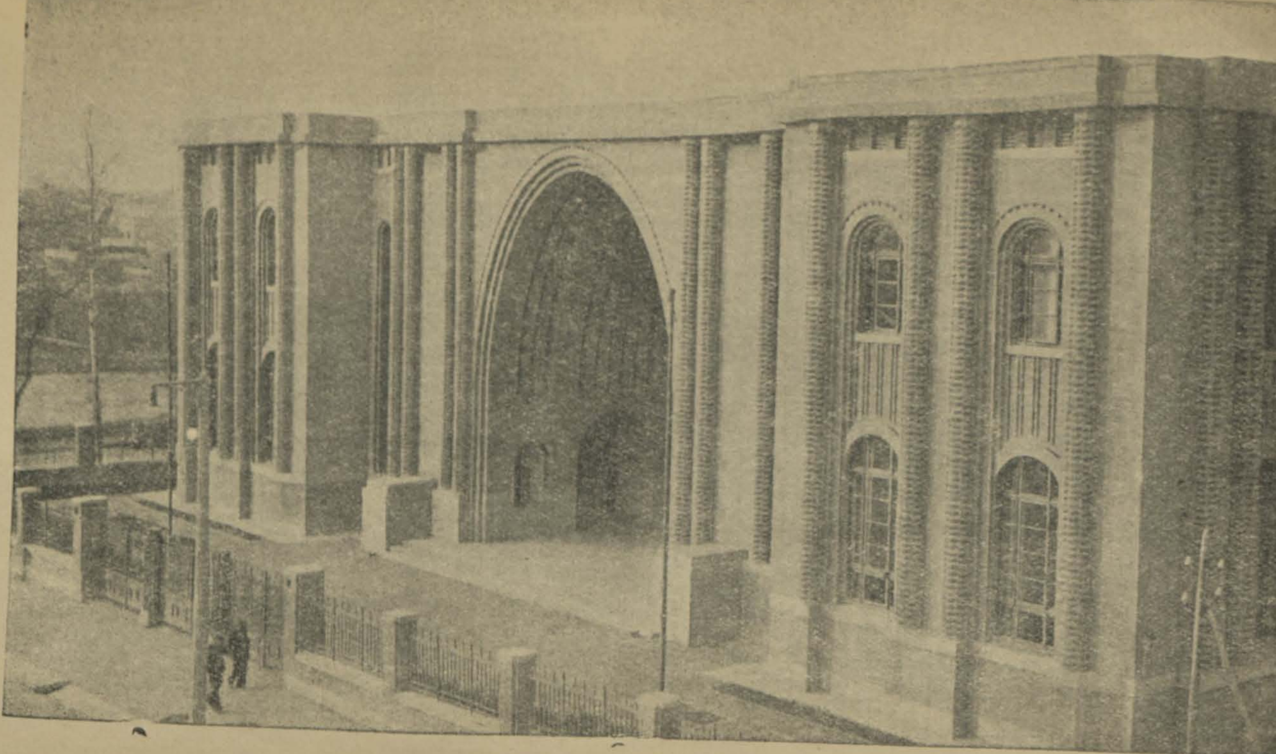
As regards the organised industries, the policy of the Government is to encourage the country craftsmen and local bodies to make the best use of Iran's raw products like cotton, wool, silk and sugar instead of simply exporting them to foreign countries and

[1] *See* R. A. G. F. *p.* 3.

getting in exchange the finished products of the same material at much higher rates. Its aim, therefore, is to make Iran self-sufficient by starting factories at various industrial centres.

The organised industries of Iran may be divided into the following sub-heads :—

(1) *Food Industry.*—Its introduction in Iran is of the most important value from the economic point of view, since the country possesses all the required raw materials which are now utilised to the best purpose within itself. There are well-established flour mills near the silos of Tehran, Tabriz, Qazvin, Hamadan, Meshhed, Isfahan and Shiraz. The silo at Tehran alone possesses a storage capacity of 60,000 tons of wheat. For husking, cleaning and polishing of rice, there are numerous factories in the rice-growing areas of Mazenderan and Gilan. From these factories about 14,000 tons of rice is husked and turned out annually for local consumption. Next, there is the beer-industry. There are two factories of the kind in Tabriz, and one at Tehran with a total output of about two and a half million bottles of beer



The National Museum, Tehran.

per year. For the last few years the dry fruits are being collected, packed and exported from the country on well-organised basis. There are good markets for dry fruits in Europe and America. As Khurasan and Azarbyjan are important centres for dry fruits, we find regular factories now at Maragheh, Khaw, and Tabriz where dry fruits are stored, selected, treated scientifically, and packed upon up-to-date lines for export to foreign countries. Distillation industry has also made a good progress in Iran. There are five distilleries at Tehran, and one each a Meshhed, Shiraz, Isfahan and Qazvin. As Iran grows grapes of excellent quality, the wines and liquors produced by the local factories prove a match to the best brewed drinks hitherto imported from Europe. It is hoped that upon the development of the distilleries, Iran will be able to export wines to foreign countries as well. Sugar industry is still in its initial stages in Iran. There are, in all, eight sugar factories in the country with an annual production of about 22,500 tons, hardly meeting one-third of the country's needs. Sugar in Iran is produced mostly

from the beet, the plantation of which is developing according to the increased requirements of the factories. Tea is grown, picked, cured, and dried in the Caspian region. There are three tea factories at Tankaban, and two at Lahijan. Vegetable oils have been extracted in Iran since ancient times from figs, olives and castor-seeds. These are now being produced on a large scale in well-established factories at Bandar Gaz, Nishapur, Qazvin, Isfahan, Shiraz and Meshhed, producing annually about 50,000 kilograms of oils. These are used, besides cooking and medicinal purposes, in industries like soap, piant and varnish making, etc.

(2) *Weaving Industry.*—Since the raw materials required for this industry—cotton, wool, and silk—are available in large quantities within the country, a number of textile, woollen and silk mills exist to-day in Iran. Isfahan and Chalus are the silk-weaving centres ; Du Shahr Shahi and Bih Shahr possess the best calico-printing factories ; while Tehran, Kerman, Qazvin, Meshhed, Tabriz, Shiraz, Kashan, Bandar Abbas, Simnan, Qum and Ahwaz have textile mills.

Besides, Tehran possesses the biggest hosiery mill in the country. The jute mill industry is expected to have a very bright future in Iran. At present the jute is grown on a fairly large scale in the Caspian region. There are jute mills at Resht (Gilan), and Shahi (Mazenderan) producing annually between eight to ten million metres of gunny, and about 4,000 kilograms of strings and ropes.

(3) *Iron and Steel Industry.*—Heavy industries like steel-rolling, or making rail or road-construction material, automobiles, aeroplanes, locomotives, and other machinery have not yet attained any importance due to insufficient iron-ore and coal coming out of the mines in the country. The iron, coal, manganese and other mines are now being gradually worked out, and the yield being stored by the Government for the working of heavy industries. The Government has established a number of ordnance[1] factories, and has ever since been endeavouring to increase their output while planning to establish new factories at other centres as

[1] Geo. III, *p.* 167.

well. At Tehran an aeroplane factory, a copper smelting work, and an iron and steel factory for making iron rails, boilers, locomotives, etc., have now been established. Foundries and iron works have also been established on small scale by private enterprise in Tehran and other cities ; but these are at present in their initial stages of growth. These small factories make things of everyday use like metal vessels, lamps, braziers, iron beds, pipe furniture, tricycles, perambulators, etc.[1]

(4) *Mining and Allied Industries.*— The development of mining is one of the biggest schemes before the Government. In its initial stages, it admits of engaging experts for discovering different kinds of mines, ascertaining the qualities and respective values of the yield, and submitting a concrete programme for work. A large number of coal-fields, iron, manganese, lead and copper mines have already been located by the Government experts, and given on contract basis to interested parties. Oil comes as one of the principal industries under this head.

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[1] Geo. III, p. 167.

" The British Government holds £11,250,000 Ordinary Shares (out of £20,137,500—worth two votes each), and £1,000 at 8 per cent Preference Shares (out of a total of £7,232,838 at 8 per cent and £5,473,414 at 9 per cent—five shares carrying one vote). In other words, the Government controls 52.55 per cent of the votes. The Burmah Oil Co. owns another £5,342,985 of the Ordinary Shares."[1]

(5) *Wood Industry.*—It was introduced in the country in the year 1311 Solar (1932 A.D.) at the time when the Trans-Iranian Railway was under construction, and required a large supply of wooden sleepers for the railway line. As the said Railway is still under development and expansion, there are two factories now for meeting the requirements of the Company and an aeroplane factory recently established in Tehran. The annual output of these two factories comes to about 300,000 sleepers, besides 12 to 15 thousand cube metres of ordinary timber, about 6,000 tons tar, and a considerable quantity of machine oil, grease and benzene.

[1] E. S. f.n. *p.* 157.



Three Levels on the Northern Section of the Trans-Iranian Railway.

(6) *Other Industries.*—Under this category there come the cement, match, tanning, leather, soap, glycerine, glass, and cigarette factories. There is a cement factory at Kahrizak, with a daily output of about 3,000 tons. Match factories now exist at Shahrud, Gilan, Isfahan, Tabriz, Tehran, and Zandijan. The total production of these factories during the year 1943-44 was 124,552,000 match boxes weighing in all 1,245,520 kilograms. The tanneries cure a large quantity of hides and skins (cow-hides, sheep, goat and calf-skins) for various purposes in the country and export to foreign markets. Tanning is a very old industry in Iran having its centres around Meshhed, Gurgan, Hamadan, Kermanshah and Tabriz. But since the hand-cured skins got dry and shrunken within a very short time, they could hardly fetch good value in foreign markets. It was, therefore, necessary to establish a number of up-to-date tanning factories with the help of the Government. At present there are seven big tanning and leather factories in Iran,—three in Tabriz, two in Tehran, and one each at Meshhed

and Hamadan. The total value of the export of skins and hides of all kinds (including fur-skins) comes to 29,168,000,000 Rials.

There are twelve soap-factories in the country, producing about 1,613,000 kilograms of washing soaps, and about 120,000 kilograms of toilet soaps per year. Glass factories exist at Tehran, Resht, and Babul producing articles of coloured and plain glass and crystal.

Cigarette industry in Iran is a State monopoly. The centre of the industry is at Tehran, where some thousands of hands are daily engaged in manufacturing cigarettes, and pipe and other kinds of tobacco.

Other factories produce articles like paper, cardboard, furniture, elastic tapes, rain-coats, toys, boot-creams, etc., at Tehran and other big towns.

VII

Transport and Trade

A good system of transport is of vital importance for the advancement of trade and the consequent prosperity of a nation in modern times. It increases the contact between the town and the village, and acts as a stimulous to both industry and agriculture. Improved means of communication and conveyance are essential for the proper utilisation of the resources of the country, and for the movement of men, material and finished products. The difficulties of communication have been largely removed in modern times by railways, metalled roads, water, and air transport in Iran.

Railways.—During the last Great War one of the principal plans under this head was to link up the Indian and Russian railways by constructing a line from Karachi to

Tehran and on to Baku, and from Tiflis *via* Tabriz and Tehran to Meshhed. This was proposed by the Russians. The Germans had also proposed the extension of the Berlin-Baghdad Railway up to Tehran; but all such schemes remained only on paper, and were finally discarded in 1925 when the Shah of Iran declared to plan his own railway with purely national ends in view.

In this respect, 'the first practical steps were taken in May 1925, when it was decided to finance the whole project from the proceeds of taxes on tea and sugar—thus dispensing with foreign aid. The plans were approved by the Assembly in March 1926, and on October 17, 1927, work began at each end.'

'The first train left Bandar Shah for Tehran on February 19, 1937. In November of the same year Qum was linked up with the capital, while on June 23, 1938, trains began to run as far as Erak. Finally on August 24, 1938, H. I. M. the Shah laid the last rail linking the northern and southern sections in the mountains between Erak and Khorramabad. The first through train on

the central section (Tehran-Ahwaz) left Tehran on December 23. So, after eleven years of work, and at a cost of thirty million pounds, the great project was successfully completed without leaving the country indebted to the financiers of the West.'[1]

The trans-Iranian railway has got a total length of 1,864·50[2] kilometres[3] under operation at the moment, and is divided into two main sections and a number of branches, to wit:

(a) The Northern Section running between Bandar Shah and Tehran. It is 461 kilometres in length, and passes through places like Bandar Gaz, Behshahar, Sari, Shahi (jute factory), Shirgah, Firozkoh, and Rey.

(b) The Southern Section, running from Tehran to Bandar Shahpur on the Persian Gulf. It is 937 kilometres in length, and passes through places like Qum, Erak,

[1] *See* E. S. *pp.* 93-4, for details.
[2] A. G. D. *p.* 432 *et sq.*
[3] 1 kilometre = 1,000 metres ; 1 mile = about 1625 metres
1 kilometre = 0·6214 mile ; 5 miles = 8 kilometres (approximately).



A Scene of the Tehran Railway Station.

Shahzand, Azna, Darband, Shush (ancient Suza), Ahwaz, and Khusravi.

The difficulties in the construction of these two main sections of the trans-Iranian railway can well be imagined by the number of tunnels and bridges built thereupon. There are 234 tunnels measuring in all 23,599 metres or roughly about 6 per cent of the total length of the rail-road. Then there are 4,772 bridges on the line ; 1,933 of them are on the northern section and 2,839 on the southern. All taken together, they come to about 25,372 metres in length.

There are 90 stations on these two Sections ; 31 of which are between Bandar Shah and Tehran, and 59 between Tehran and Bandar Shahpur. The Tehran Railway Station has an area of 34,000 square metres, and possesses in fact the most spacious building with all modern amenities for the comfort and convenience of the passengers. For the construction of this station no less than 70 companies from twelve different countries of the world offered their services.

These branches are only a preliminary

growth to a net-work of railways linking up the whole country with Afghanistan and India on the one hand, and Iraq, Turkey and the west on the other. For the said purpose the programme of works has since long been started, and at present the following branches are under operation :—

(1) *Tehran-Tabriz, via Qazvin and Zandjan*—It is 315 kilometres in length from Tehran, has got 18 intermediary stations, and is working up to Zandjan.

(2) *Tehran-Meshhed*—It is under operation up to Shahrud, passing through Rey, Garmsar, Semnan and Damghan. It is 412·5 kilometres in length from Tehran, and has got 24 intermediary stations over it.

(3) *Tehran-Yezd*—This is the railway line meant to be connected ultimately to the terminus of the Indian N. W. Railway at Zahedan on the eastern frontier of Iran. The first section of this line, which has been surveyed, will run from Tehran to Qum, Kashan, Anarak and Yezd. As Qum is already connected with Tehran by the trans-Iranian (main) line, the construction work has now started downwards towards Kashan.

An additional train service operates between Tehran and Qum regularly.

(4) *Ahwaz-Khorramshahr*—This line is 123 kilometres in length. It was completed and put under operation in 1941. It appears that this branch has recently been extended further on to Basra.

There are four classes on the trains of the trans-Iranian railway. The first and second class carriages have quite comfortable fittings similar to those which one sees in upper class compartments of the trains in Europe. The third class has wooden seats like those found in Indian trains, and the fourth consists of just covered trucks meant for the transport of labourers and artisans from one place to another. Fares for the First Class are ·35 Rials, for the Second Class ·25 Rials, for the Third Class ·15 Rials, and for the Fourth Class 10 Dinars per kilometre. To members of the forces, police, students, and children under twelve, the railway gives a concession of 50% on single-journey tickets, and an additional 20% concession on the return-journey tickets. Freight rates vary from ·70 to ·30 Rials per kilometre

according to the nature of goods divided under five main groups.

Roads—Several good motorable roads run to-day from Tehran to different points on the frontiers of the country. The chief amongst them may briefly be mentioned here :—

(1) *Tabriz to Tehran.* 626 kilometres.

(2) *Bandar Pehlavi to Tehran.* 379 kilometres.

(3) *Bandar Pehlavi to Mazenderan.* The pucca road is only from Resht to Babulsar, 324 kilometres.

(4) *Chalus to Tehran.* 210 kilometres.

(5) *Bandar Shah to Tehran.* 382 kilometres.

(6) *Tehran to Meshhed.* 941 kilometres.

(7) *Meshhed to Birjand.* 528 kilometres.

(8) *Birjand to Zahedan.* 467 kilometres.

(9) *Meshhed to Herat (Afghanistan) via Turbat-i-Sheikh Jam.* 244 kilometres.

(10) *Meshhed to Bandar Abbas.* 1,907 kilometres.

(11) *Tehran to Bandar Abbas.* 1,678 kilometres.

(12) *Bushire to Tehran.* 1181 kilometres.

(13) *Khorramshahr to Tehran.* 1,107 kilometres.

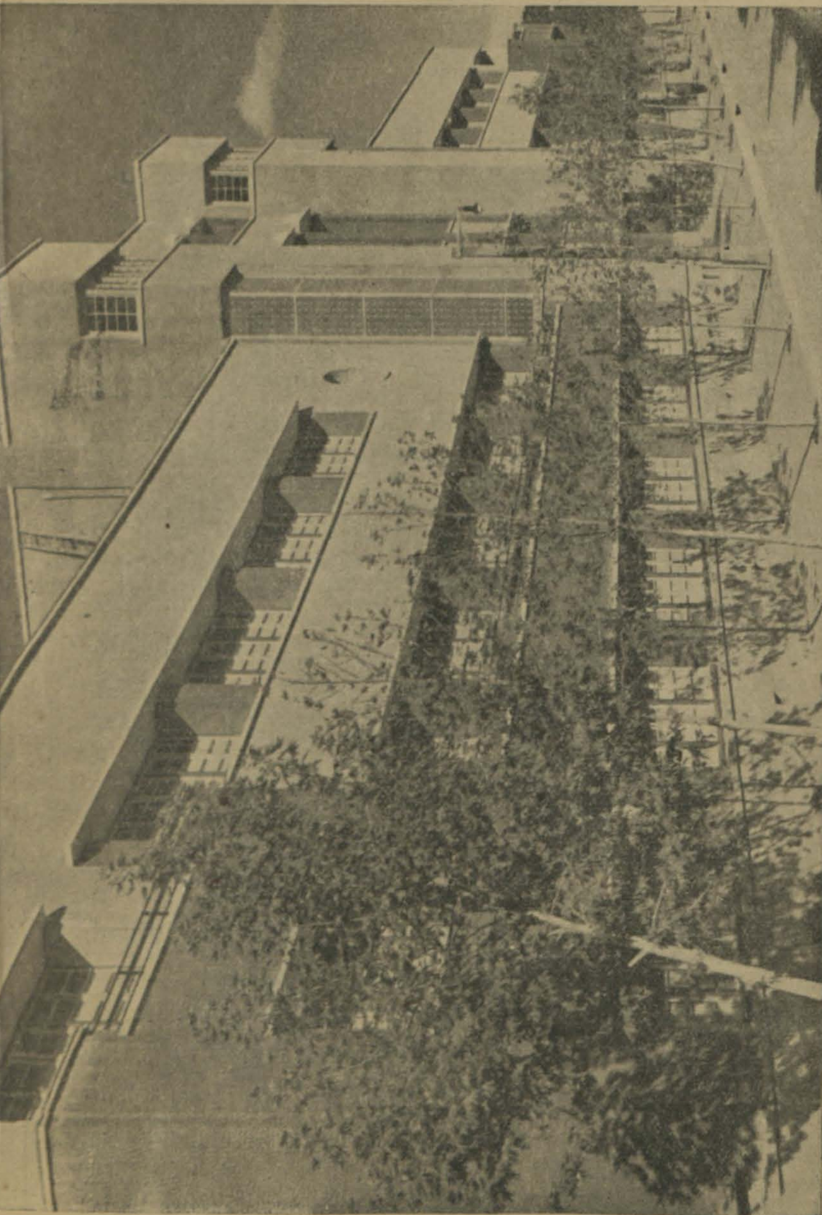
(14) *Khorramshahr to Abadan.* 18 kilometres.

(15) *Kermanshah to Tehran.* 569 kilometres.

(16) *Kerman and Yezd to Tehran.* 1,042 kilometres.

The Sherkate Sehamie Mossaferate or *Irantour* is the name of the State organisation formed in 1936 for providing facilities to travellers and tourists visiting Iran. It arranges for lodgings and hotels, and helps the travellers in getting visas, permits, and in exchanging money. High class hotels and good conveyances are at the service of this organisation.

Telegraphs—According to the latest report of the Administration of the Iranian Telegraphs, the total length of the telegraphic lines existing on the 20th March, 1944, was 18,153 kilometres, while the total length of



the wire upon the poles was 51,117 kilometres. There were, on the said date, 396 main post offices, and 33 sub-offices in the country.

The Government of Iran has also got radio-telegraphic stations at Tehran, Tabriz, Meshhed, Kermanshah, Shiraz, Kerman, Khorramshahr, Bushire, Jask and Bandar Lingah, but only the stations at Tehran and Lingah are working regularly.

Telephones—There are 185 towns having telephonic connections in the country. The total number of telephone receivers on the 20th March, 1944 was 14,933, out of which Tehran alone possessed 6,000. In all, there is a net-work of 246 telephonic lines over the kingdom. The Societe Generale Iranienne des Telephones is responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of the service.

Navigational services—The *Casp-Flotte* is the company which plies its ships in the Caspian Sea carrying voyagers and merchandise from Iran to U.S.S.R., and *vice versa*. The service is under operation between Bandar Pehlavi and Baku, and Bandar Shah and Bandar Gaz four times a week from all sides.

The following companies ply their ships in the Persian Gulf area at the present moment :—

(1) British-India Steam Navigation Co. Ltd. (British Flag). Agents : Gray Mackenzie & Co.

(2) Isthmian Ship Co. (American Flag). Agents : Gray Mackenzie & Co.

(3) Kerr Steamship Co. (American, British, and Norwegian Flags). Agents : Africa and Orient Co.

(4) Silver-Java-Pacific line. (Dutch Flag). Agents : Africa and Orient Co.

(5) Export Line Ltd. (American Flag). Agents : Africa and Orient Co.

(6) Frank C. Strick & Co., Ltd. (British Flag). Agents : Frank C. Strick & Co.

(7) Elerman & Buknol Co., Ltd., (British Flag). Agents Frand C. Strick & Co.

As services in the Gulf area are very irregular, no definite information can be given in the present conditions.

Air Services—The following are the air services working in Iran at present :—

(1) Air Service of the Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs, Iran, working weekly between Tehran and Kermanshah.

(2) Tehran—U.S.S.R. Air Service. This is being performed by Russian aeroplanes twice a week from either end. The fares are :—

(*a*) Tehran to Baku 1,540 Rials per person, extra baggage 16 Rials per kilogram ; and

(*b*) Tehran to Moscow 6,600 Rials per person, extra baggage 66 Rials kilogram.

(3) *Tehran-Baghdad-Cairo and London/New York Service*—This is being performed by the 'British Airways'. The fares are :—Tehran to Baghdad £16, Cairo £48, London £133 per head ; and from Cairo to New York 905 dollars per head.

(4) Aviation Service of the Anglo-Iranian Oil Co. Ltd. It is a private service meant for the transaction of the personnel, material and mails of the Company. It has got its headquarters at Abadan, and operates

between Abadan, Basrah and Baghdad on the one hand, and between Abadan, Khorramshahr, Nafte Shah, Ahwaz, Gheshm, Bushire and Tehran on the other.

Trade—It is evident from the historical records that Iran had established vast trade connections with India, China, Central Asia, Babylon, Egypt, Greece and Rome since very early times. Herodotus[1] writes that during the Achæmenian period Iran used to export various kinds of fruits, wines, food-grains, honey and sweets to foreign countries. Wines found market in Egypt; food-grains, honey and sweets in Greece; silk and silk-goods in Rome and northern Africa; while medicines, and perfumes and scents which were a speciality of Iran were exported to almost all parts of the then known[2] world. The trade between Iran and her neighbours grew more and more during the course of ages; and, as has been said in the preceding sections of the book, the steady growth of trade can be traced in Iran right up to the present day.

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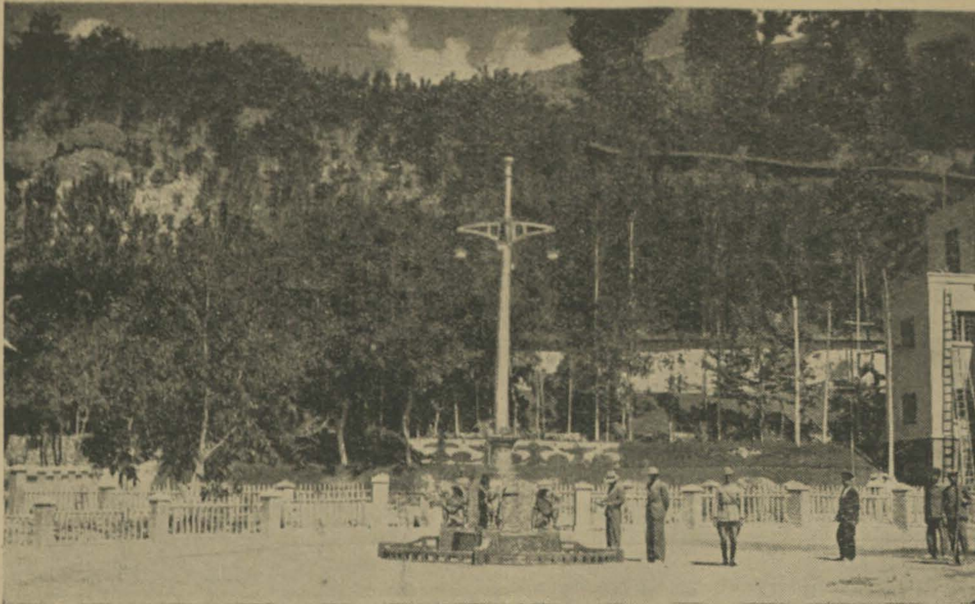
[1] Herodotus, Book IV, 36-41.
[2] I. I. *p*. 48.

The following are the principal imports—Arms and machinery, chemical products, iron and steel bars, mineral oils, motor-cars and machine parts, sugar, tea, spices, cotton, woollen and rayon piece-goods. Some notable articles imported during the year 1943-44 were :—

	Tons	Value in million Rials
Cotton yarn ...	2,339	237,384
Cloth (all kinds)	74	21,153
Sugar ...	25,901	226,532
Tea ...	1,642	83,430
Machinery and parts ...	674	29,296
Mineral oils ...	43,144	79,727

The following are the principal exports of Iran—Petroleum, carpets, raw-cotton, wool, fruits (dry and fresh), gums, opium, silk, rice, sheep and lamb-skins and furs. Some notable articles exported during the year 1943-44 were :—

	Tons	Value in million Rials
Petroleum ...	8,436,047	3,277,525
Carpets ...	1,056	165,176



A Corner of the Public Gardens, Tehran.

	Tons	Value in million Rials
Fruits (fresh and dry) ...	10,169	122,406
Raw cotton ...	5	4
Wool (raw and corded) ...	1,681	27,736
Sheep and lamb-skins ...	16,108	16,312
Furs ...	970	12,856
Rice ...	20,782	75,688
Gums ...	1,204	66,434
Intestines ...	99	12,175
Cereals and food-grains ...	368	3,494
Iron-oxide ...	428	297

Total imports and exports transacted with Iran by foreign countries during the year 1943-44[1] are shown below:—

Country in order of importance	*Million Rials*	*Percentage*
India ...	666	30
U.S.S.R. ...	539	24
U.S.A. ...	273	12·25
Great Britain ...	122	5·5

[1] A. G. D. *p.* 3 *et seq.*

Country in order of importance		*Million Rials*	*Percentage*
Japan	...	10	0·45
Germany	...	4	0·15
France	...	1	...
Other countries	...	616	27·65
Total	...	2,231	100

Finances—The following table shows receipts and[1] disbursements at the end of the first six months in 1322 (October 22, 1943) and 1323 (October 22, 1944) :—

	1322	*1323*	*Increase/Decrease*
Ordinary Revenue ...	1,842,641,000	1,333,257,000	– 509,384,000
Ordinary Expenditure	1,445,138,000	1,479,595,000	+ 34,457,000
Surplus/Deficit	397,503,000	–146,338,000	– 543,841,000
Commercial Revenue ...	1,449,843,000	2,516,362,000	+1066,519,000
Commercial Expenditure	1,557,104,000	2,318,274,000	+ 761,170,000
Deficit Surplus	–107,261,000	198,088,000	+ 305,349,000
Total Revenue	3,292,484,000	3,849,619,000	+ 557,135,000
Total Expenditure ...	3,002,242,000	3,797,869,000	+ 795,627,000
Surplus ...	290,242,000	51,750,000	– 238,492,000

[1]R. A. G. F. *p.* 15.

The rates of foreign exchange[1] at the banks of Iran are :—

Buying

$1 = Rials 32

£1 = ,, 128

Selling

$1 = Rials 32/50

£1 = ,, 130

The Bank Melli, the Agricultural Bank of Iran, the Imperial Bank of Iran, and the Sepah Bank, are some of the well-established banking houses in the country, all having branches in big towns and port-cities.

[1] *Ibid*, Addenda.

VIII

Social and Cultural Progress

IN 1923 Kamal Ataturk declared Turkey to be a Republic. The same year saw the rise of Raza Khan Pehlavi as the Prime Minister of Iran. This man had been closely observing the modernizing trend in Turkey, and at this juncture, he was in a position to propose a Republic for Iran as well. But the immediate action of the Turkish Government in disestablishing the hold of the religion upon the machinery of the State by the abolition of the Caliphate, frightened the Muslim divines in Iran. They opposed such tendencies of their Government by rising against the Prime Minister and the Parliament for their reformative propaganda, and succeeded in winning the day. But their triumph was temporary!

Raza Khan was crowned as the Shah of Iran in 1926. His first smashing hit against the

prestige of the *mullas* was the issue of a modern Commercial Code, whereby the divines were not allowed to decide the commercial litigations according to the Quranic law. This was followed by a new Penal Code. The first open struggle arose over the introduction of the Compulsory Military Service Law in 1927, but it was brought under control by satiating the enraged *mullas* with a diplomatic talk offering them a number of 'vague assurances.' Thereafter followed reform after reform towards the social and cultural progress of Iran. The traveller and the tourist will now find a great Westernising trend among the people of that romantic land used to long flowing robes and Oriental head-gears. "The Shah," as said by a European writer,[1] "following the modern Oriental craze for the uniformity of custume," on December 28, 1928, banned the traditional *Ammama* and *Kullah*, and decreed that the Iranians should observe a uniformity in dress by wearing compulsorily the European clothes. The change was astounding, almost revolutionary!

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[1] *E. S. p. 212.*

The most spectacular is the change in the modern woman of Iran. The propaganda for the emancipation of women was launched by the Government in 1927, and its success will



Mount Damavand

long remain in the annals of the late King Raza Shah Pehlavi. For centuries the women of Iran remained hidden behind heavy black veils falling short of possessing an

equal status with men. The Government started the work of the emancipation of women very slowly and steadily. By the year 1929 the upper strata of the society adopted European dress within their homes. In 1931 it was enacted that all marriage contracts and acts of divorce be registered with a civil official instead of a *mulla*. By 1935 the propaganda cleared off all obstacles in the way, a firm ground was prepared and the movement came into full swing. The press and the platform resounded with propaganda for the emancipation of women ; and finally on June 28, 1935 the Prime Minister gave a Garden Party at the Iran Club, at which, 'for the first time, members of the Cabinet and other high officials were invited with their wives.' This placed the official stamp of approval on the appearance of women in public.

From that day the veil was officially discarded in Iran, and women were regarded as equal to men by the law. No woman was allowed to move about under a veil, the shop-keepers were not allowed to serve any veiled woman, the bus conductors and taxi-drivers

were to refuse admission to them.

Educational Progress.—The organisation of the educational system was conceived and drawn up by the Qajar kings of Iran, but—the major portion of the scheme was carried out during the last twenty years. The Government made the Education Ministry responsible for various heads of education, viz. primary, secondary and higher schools, physical training, and historical and archæological works, and educational propaganda, etc. The schools were graded into kindergarten, primary, secondary and higher. The ministry had to select suitable text books and prepare syllabi for all school classes. The progress made by education in Iran within the last twenty years is remarkable. All schools in Iran are equipped to-day with modern furniture, apparatus and have qualified teachers, mostly trained on modern educational lines. Boys study Persian, and French, English or Russian as the second language, history, geography, mathematics, and scriptures. Girls do more of domestic science, needle-work, and drawing than the former. By the end of six years, after passing the primary stage, a

normal student takes the entrance examination into the University.

The primary purpose of Iranian education is to turn out good members of the society. The courses have been carefully prepared by educational experts of the country, who are very quick and painstaking at studying the latest Western methods of education and eager to adopt them according to their own requirements.

In 1934 the Tehran University Act was passed by the National Assembly. The foundation stone was laid by the Shah on February 5, 1935. While construction is still in progress, the actual working of the University has started. There are at present five faculties, viz., Law and Political Science, Medicine, Industry, Sciences and Arts at the *campus*, while the sixth, that of Theology is housed in the Sipeh-salar Mosque in the town.[1]

Students joining the University can specialise in any one of the following subjects—Persian language and literature, history and geography, archæology, philos-

[1]*See* M.I.P., *p.* 9 *et. seq.*

ophy, mathematics, physics, and chemistry, natural sciences, and foreign languages. For professional studies, there are courses for modern painting, sculpture, mosaic, carpet weaving, miniature work, dress designing, interior decoration, and fancy-work. The University is equipped with up-to-date science laboratories, lecture theatres, and libraries. The teaching staff consists of some very highly qualified Iranians besides a number of foreign professors. The curricula of the University classes appears to have been chalked out upon the lines of the French residental universities.

Broadcasting.—The Tehran Broadcasting Station was opened by the then Crown-Prince (now the Shah) in April 1940. The Government is now planning to erect a net-work of transmitters in the country, but owing to the present war the work has slackened for the moment. As up to the beginning of the war, the Iranians did not have any opportunity of listening to broadcast talks in their own language, the radio was not popular among them. But now, besides the Tehran Station, they receive regular talks in Persian from the B.B.C., the All India Radio, and some

Continental stations. This has naturally increased the interest of the general public, and has made them more radio-minded than ever before. The Government is also doing much in encouraging the import and sale of radio sets, and in erecting a number of them with loud-speakers in prominent places in various towns. Thus the radio is being popularised in the country, and it is hoped that Iran will very shortly have a number of up-to-date broadcasting and transmitting stations.

Theatre and Cinema.—It appears that Nasir-ud-Din Shah Qajar (1846-96) was the first among the kings of Iran to visit European countries and introduce a theatre in his kingdom. This was followed by the Shirket-i-Farhang and the Theatre Melli, where plays based upon the translations of the European dramas, like those of Molier and others were performed by Armenian and Jew actors. By the emancipation of the Iranian women, the theatre attained more popularity, because prior to that the local women could not come out and act on the stage. At present the most famous theatres at the capital are the Theatre-Farhang, Tamashe Khane Tehran,

and Tamashe Khane Hunar. About a hundred different plays have been performed within the course of a few years ; but the most famous of them at the moment are Ishqui's *Rastakhiz*, Aziz Beg's *Karbalai Kabad*,



Fountain in the Maidan-i-Shahr-i-Nau, Tehran.

Aqai Zabih Bihruz's *Jijak Ali Shah*, and the late Zahir-ud-Daula's *Kabus-i-Istabdad.*

One of the greatest obstacles in the way of the theatre is the cinema. The theatres in

Iran do not possess either the resources or the capital to compete with films. So the natural result is, as we see everywhere, that the cinemas are becoming more popular among the public. The first picture-house was started some thirty years back in Iran. To-day we find good cinemas in various towns. Tehran alone possesses about a dozen of them, but as there is no film-producing company in the country, they have to import Russian, American or English films for exhibition, and because of the difficulty of language they are mostly shown with superimposed Persian titles. To popularise the cinema, it would be better to produce a number of pictures in the modern Iranian language. In India, some twelve years back, an attempt was made, perhaps by Khan Bahadur Ardeshir M. Irani of the Imperial Films, Bombay, to produce a full-length film in Persian entitled "Dukhtar-i-Lur." It was exhibited in a few frontier towns of India like Quetta and Peshawar for a few days, and was thereafter booked to Tehran sometime in 1933 or 1934. And you will be surprised to hear that according to an Iranian press

advertisement the same picture was still running in one of the Tehran cinemas as late as November last. Our Indian producers may, therefore, find a very big and productive field of activity in Iran if they care to take some initiative in studying the needs of these people and employing suitable artists for preparing pictures according to their taste.

Thus the waves of Westernisation beat upon Iran. Thus, 'slowly, one by one, the pages of the *Arabian Nights* are being closed in Persia, and the pages of modern progress substitute for them.'

IX

Iran of To-day and To-morrow

To-day

WITHIN a generation the country of Iran has so changed that her dry and saline sods have been converted into veritable turfs, parks and gardens. Primarily and primitively agricultural yesterday, to-day she is spending all her resources and energy to modernise her agriculture, and develop her industry, sciences and arts. Hundreds of young men and women, having received up-to-date training in Europe and other foreign countries, have come back home with new ideas, not alone about industry and sciences but also about the national and cultural reorganisation of Iran. They imbibed the democratic ideas during the course of their studies and travels in foreign lands, developed them on their own lines to suit the conditions of their country, and prepared a solid ground for the promulgation and

enforcement of the nationalistic ideas among the people of Iran. Thus Iran, to-day, owes to the Pehlavi regime, not only the building of schools, training of teachers, maintaining of health services, or providing the ways and means of the physical, social and cultural well-being, but also the spirit of democracy and nationalism. With speedy and radical changes, Iran is becoming an industrial and economically self-dependent country, learning new techniques, developing new processes, and creating out of raw recruits, able and useful workers. It encourages people to think, plan and invent at every conceivable turn, doing so with full confidence that the fruits of their work will become available for the mutual benefit of the nation at large.

To-morrow

On a fine December morning in the year 1943, Iran turned a new leaf in her history. Among the din and bustle of the bazaars of Tehran, the Big Three, Roosevelt, Churchill, and Stalin moved up in state towards the Royal Palace, where at the end of a busy day, and among rejoicings, they declared to stand by the side of the young

Shah of Iran in the present crisis, and respect the independence and unity of Iran in the world of to-morrow. Never in the past history of Iran had the heads of the three great nations met for a formal talk with Shah, never had a young nation emerged out so successful in dealing with the old veterans, never! While the day of the Victory draws nearer, Iran prepares for to-morrow, changing her face 'from a picturesque mediæval relic into a young industrial nation.' The new Iran will evolve new agriculture as well as a new industry. The national income will expand rapidly; banks and finance will be run in the public interest; wages and salaries will be subject to public control. This will lead forthwith to a rise in the standard of living, adequate health services, and cultural amenities in general. With the scope and range of new activities, the scope and range of work will grow and expand. The resources of the land will be developed to the full. With economic freedom and security as the guiding principle, Iran will 'blossom as the rose,' happy to maintain her independence, and proud to live in unity in the world of to-morrow.



The Mosque of Shaikh Lutfullah, Isfahan

TEXT OF

The Tehran Conference, December 1, 1943.
Declaration of the Three Powers

"The President of the United States, the Premier of the U.S.S.R., and the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, having consulted with each other and with the Prime Minister of Iran, desire to declare the mutual agreement of their three Governments regarding their relations with Iran.

The Governments of the United States, the U.S.S.R., and the United Kingdom recognise the assistance which Iran has given in the prosecution of the war against the common enemy, particularly by facilitating the transportation of supplies from overseas to the Soviet Union.

The three Governments realise that the war has caused special economic difficulties for Iran, and they are agreed that they will continue to make available to the Government

of Iran such economic assistance as may be possible, having regard to the heavy demands made upon them by their world-wide military operations and to the world-wide shortage of transport, raw materials, and supplies for civilian consumption.

With respect to the post-war period, the Governments of the United States, the U.S.S.R., and the United Kingdom are in accord with the Government of Iran that any economic problems confronting Iran at the close of hostilities should receive full consideration, along with those of other members of the United Nations, by conferences or international agencies held or created to deal with international economic matters.

The Governments of the United States, the U.S.S.R., and the United Kingdom are at one with the Government of Iran in their desire for the maintenance of the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Iran. They count upon the participation of Iran, together with all other peace-loving nations, in the establishment of international peace, security and prosperity after the war, in accordance with the principles of the

Atlantic Charter, to which all four Governments have subscribed."[1]

(Sd). WINSTON CHURCHILL
J. V. STALIN
FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT.

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[1] Issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Iran, Tehran, 1944.

APPENDIX I

Statement showing the average rainfall totals based on data up to 1940 during the different months of the year recorded at the undermentioned meteorological observatories of Iran and the Persian Gulf region.

Station	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
CHARBAR ...	1·46	1·01	0·30	0·17	0·00	0·04	0·08	0·00	0·00	0·00	0·08	0·78
JASK ...	1·17	0·96	0·65	0·24	0·01	0·04	0·02	0·01	0·00	0·12	0·24	1·15
BUSHIRE ...	2·76	1·79	0·84	0·40	0·03	0·00	0·00	0·00	0·00	0·11	1·76	3·11
ISFAHAN ...	0·74	0·59	0·80	0·58	0·26	0·05	0·06	0·01	0·05	0·10	0·43	0·71
TEHRAN ...	1·85	1·54	1·60	1·27	0·60	0·13	0·05	0·04	0·07	0·30	0·87	1·25
MESHHED ...	1·11	1·38	2·26	1·87	1·30	0·36	0·05	0·02	0·04	0·35	0·61	0·66
SEISTAN ...	0·49	0·44	0·55	0·13	0·03	0·00	0·00	0·00	0·00	0·04	0·04	0·39

APPENDIX II

A Note for Tourists

As about a fortnight's sojourn in Iran is considered to be the minimum period required for visiting the most important and interesting places in the country, a tour has accordingly been drawn up by the Department of Publicity and Tourism of Iran, which is being reproduced here for the benefit of the tourists. This tour programme begins from Pehlavi in the north and concludes at Khusravi in the west, covering thus the northern provinces of Gilan, Mazenderan, Tehran (the capital), Qum, Isfahan, Persepolis, Shiraz, Sultanabad, Hamadan (ancient Ecbatana), Kermanshah and Qasr-i-Shirin. The same programme can also be observed in the reverse form from Khusravi to Pehlavi, as will be seen under Tour 'B' given on page 120.

Tour 'A' —15 Days

1st day.—Arrival at Pehlavi on the Caspian Sea by steamer. Customs and pass-

port formalities. Departure for Resht; visit *en route* the small town of Qazian and, if possible, see its famous fisheries.

Lunch at Resht

Resht, capital of the province of Gilan, the centre of rice cultivation and silk industry. A short tour of the town. Departure at about 3 p.m. for Ramsarya passing through Lahijan, a district where very fine tea is grown. The distance between Pehlavi and Ramsarya is 156 kilometres.

Night in Ramsarya

2nd day.—Visit Ramsarya situated on the slopes of the Alborz mountains, a health resort famous for its hot springs. There is a Sanatorium for the treatment of rheumatism, arthritis, neuralgia and paralysis.

Departure at 10 a.m. over the coastal road to Chalus visiting *en route* Shahsavar, a port of some importance in the region of Tonkaban, famous for oranges.

Lunch in Chalus

Departure for Naushahr, a new port on the Caspian. Proceed to Babulsar, a port in the province of Mazenderan. In Babulsar (old Mashadsar) there is a modern casino and

hotel, as well as a fine beach for swimming and quite an extensive organisation of fisheries where excellent caviar is produced. The distance between Ramsarya and Babulsar is 198 kilometres.

Night in Babulsar

3rd day.—Departure for Babul visiting the bazar and the shrine of Imamzadeh Qasim. Departure for Tehran *via* Shahi situated on the Talar River. Shahi is attaining importance due to its possessing a sugar refinery and a textile mill.

Lunch en route

The way will lie through Firuzkuh (elevation 1800 metres) which is an important junction of the Trans-Iranian Railway. Travellers will, here, be able to travel by train from Bandar Shah-Babul-Firuzkuh to Tehran, a distance of 462 kilometres, if they desire.

Night in Tehran

4th and 5th days.—Sight-seeing in and around Tehran, capital of the Iranian Empire. Visit the Royal Museum at the Gulistan Palace housing the famous Peacock and other historic thrones, the National Museum,

the Mosque of Sipah-salar, the bazaars, and some of the palaces outside the town, like the Qasr-i-Qajar, etc.

A short trip to Rey, the site of the capital of Iran during the Parthian period, about 12 kilometres away from the town. See also the golden-domed shrine of Shah Abdul Azim.

6th day.—Motor to Isfahan *via* Qum which is one of the most sacred cities of Iran on account of the shrine of Fatemeh-el-Massoumeh, sister of the 8th Imam. It attracts thousands of pilgrims every year. The shrine is of great beauty, and has also a museum within its vicinity, containing priceless art-treasures. The distance between Isfahan and Tehran is 415 kilometres.

Night in Isfahan

7th day.—Isfahan, capital of the Safavi dynasty, is one of the most glorious cities of the past, and offers a wide field for the study of the Islamic architecture and art. The Temple of Mars, the Maidan-i-Shah, the Mosque of Shaikh Lutfullah, and the Jame Mosque are some of the famous monuments to be seen. The Allah Verdi and Khaju bridges span over the Zandeh Rud river.

Night in Isfahan

8th day.—Proceed to Shiraz, a distance of 480 kilometres. On the way, not far from Shiraz, you will see Persepolis, but due to the length of the journey, a visit to the place must be left for the following day.

Night in Shiraz

9th and 10th days.—Visit the town. See the tombs of Saadi and Hafiz, two of the greatest poets of Iran, the Jame Mosque, and the Karim Khan Bazar. Motor to Persepolis, a distance of 60 kilometres, visiting *en route* Band-i-Amir (the dam, waterfall and village). Persepolis was built 2,500 years ago by Darius the Great of the Achæmenian dynasty. Visit there the excavations made by the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago, America. Visit the colossal statuary, harems, palaces and ruined tombs which are being excavated and restored. Also see the Naqsh-i-Rustam, tomb of Darius, and Zoroaster, the Old Fire Temple, and the valley of the tombs.

Night in Shiraz

11th day.—Return to Isfahan, a distance of 480 kilometres.

Lunch en route

Night in Isfahan

12th day.—Visit Chehel Sutun, the Palace of Ali Qapu, the Shaking Minarets, the Julfa Cathedral and its Museum, Madressa-i-Chahar Bagh, etc.

Night in Isfahan

13th day.—Motor *via* Khonsar and Gulpaigan to Sultanabad, a distance of 288 kilometres. Sultanabad is one of the most important centres of the rug industry.

Night in Sultanabad

14th day.—Proceed to Hamadan, a distance of 184 kilometres. Hamadan (ancient Ecbatana) is situated in one of the most fertile districts of Iran. Visit the town and see the tomb of Esther and Mordohai, the tower of Alavian with its beautiful stucco work and Stone Lion, a little outside the town.

Night in Hamadan

15th day.—Proceed to Kermanshah, a distance of 186 kilometres, visiting *en route* the Bihstun and the caves of Taq-i-Bustan with their respective bas-reliefs. The road goes over the Assadabad Pass 3,000 metres

above sea level.

Lunch at Kermanshah

Proceed to Khusravi (Iranian Firontier) a distance of 207 kilometres. Customs and passort formalities. Thence to Khaneqin and Baghdad.

Tour 'B' —15 Days.

1st day.—Arrival at Khusravi (Iranian Frontier). Customs and passport formalities. Departure for Hamadan, a distance of 393 kilometres.

Lunch in Kermanshah.

Leave for Hamadan visiting *en route* the Bihstun and the caves of Taq-i-Bustan with their respective bas-reliefs. The road goes over the Assadabad Pass 3,000 metres above sea level.

Night in Hamadan

2nd day.—Hamadan, ancient Ecbatana, is situated in one of the most fertile districts of Iran. Visit the town and see the tomb of Esther and Mordohai, the tower of Alavian with its beautiful stucco work and the Stone Lion a little outside the town.

Proceed to Sultanabad, one of the most

important centres of the rug industry, a distance of 184 kilometres.

Lunch en route

Night in Sultanabad

3rd day.—Start for Isfahan *via* Culpaigan and Khonsar, which is only 288 kilometres distant.

Lunch en route

Night in Isfahan

4th day.—Isfahan, capital of the Safavi dynasty, is one of the most glorious cities of the past and offers a wide field for the study of the Islamic architecture and art. The Temple of Mars, the Maidan-i-Shah, the Mosque of Shaikh Lutfullah, and the Jame Mosque are some of the famous mounments to be seen. The Allah Verdi and Khaju bridges span over the Zandeh Rud river.

Night in Isfahan

5th day.—Proceed to Shiraz, a distance of 480 kilometres. On the way, not far from Shiraz, you will see Persepolis, but due to the length of the journey, a visit to the place must be left for the following day.

Night in Shiraz

6th and 7th days.—Visit the town. See

the tombs of Saadi and Hafiz, two of the greatest poets of Iran, the Jame Mosque, and the Karim Khan Bazar. Motor to Persepolis, a distance of 60 kilometres, visiting *en route* Band-i-Amir (the dam, waterfall and village). Persepolis was built 2,500 years ago by Darius the Great of the Achæmenian dynasty. Visit there the excavations made by the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago, America. Visit the colossal statuary, harems, palaces and ruined tombs which are being excavated and restored. Also see the Naqsh-i-Rustam, tomb of Darius, and Zoroaster, the Old Fire Temple, and the valley of the tombs.

Night in Shiraz

8th day.—Return to Isfahan, a distance of 480 kilometres.

Lunch en route

Night in Isfahan

9th day.—Visit Chehel Sutun, the Palace of Ali Qapu, the Shaking Minarets, the Julfa Cathedral and its Museum, Madressa-i-Chahar Bagh, etc.

Night in Isfahan

10th day.—Motor *via* Qum to Tehran,

a distance of 415 kilometres.

Lunch en route

Qum is one of the most sacred cities of Iran on account of the shrine of Fatemeh-el-Massunmeh, sister of the 8th Imam. It attracts thousands of pilgrims every year. The shrine is of great beauty, and has also a museum within its vicinity, containing priceless art-treasures.

Night in Tehran

11th and 12th days.—Sight-seeing in and around Tehran, capital of the Iranian Empire. Visit the Royal Museum at the Gulistan palace housing the famous Peacock and other historic thrones, the National Museum, the Mosque of Sipah-salar, the bazars, and some of the Palaces outside the town, like the Qasr-i-Qajar, etc.

A short trip to Rey, the site of the capital of Iran during the Parthian period, about 12 kilometres away from the town. See also the golden-domed shrine Shah Abdul Azim.

Night in Tehran

13th day.—Proceed to Babulsar, a distance of 291 kilometres. The way will lie through Firuzkuh (elevation 1800 metres) which is an

important junction of the Trans-Iranian Railway. Travellers will, here, be able to travel by train from Tehran-Firuzkuh-Babul to Bandar Shah, a distance of 463 kilometres, if they desire.

Visit *en route* Shahi situated on the Talar river. Shahi is attaining importance due to its possessing a sugar refinery and a textile mill.

Lunch en route

Night in Babulsar

In Babulsar there is a modern casino and hotel as well as a fine beach for swimming, and quite an extensive organisation of fisheries where excellent caviar is produced.

14th day.—Proceed to Ramsarya, a distance of 198 kilometres. Visit *en route* the new port of Naushahar.

Lunch in Chalus

Departure for Shahsavar, a port of some importance in the region of Tonkaban, famous for oranges.

Ramsarya is situated on the slope of the Alborz mountains. It is a health resort famous for its hot springs. There is a Sanatorium for the treatment of rheumatism.

arthritis, neuralgia and paralysis.

Night in Ramsarya

15th day.—Departure for Pehlāvi, a distance of 156 kilometres visiting *en route* Rud-i-sar and Lang-i-rud, two coastal towns, and Lahijan, a great centre for the tea-plantation.

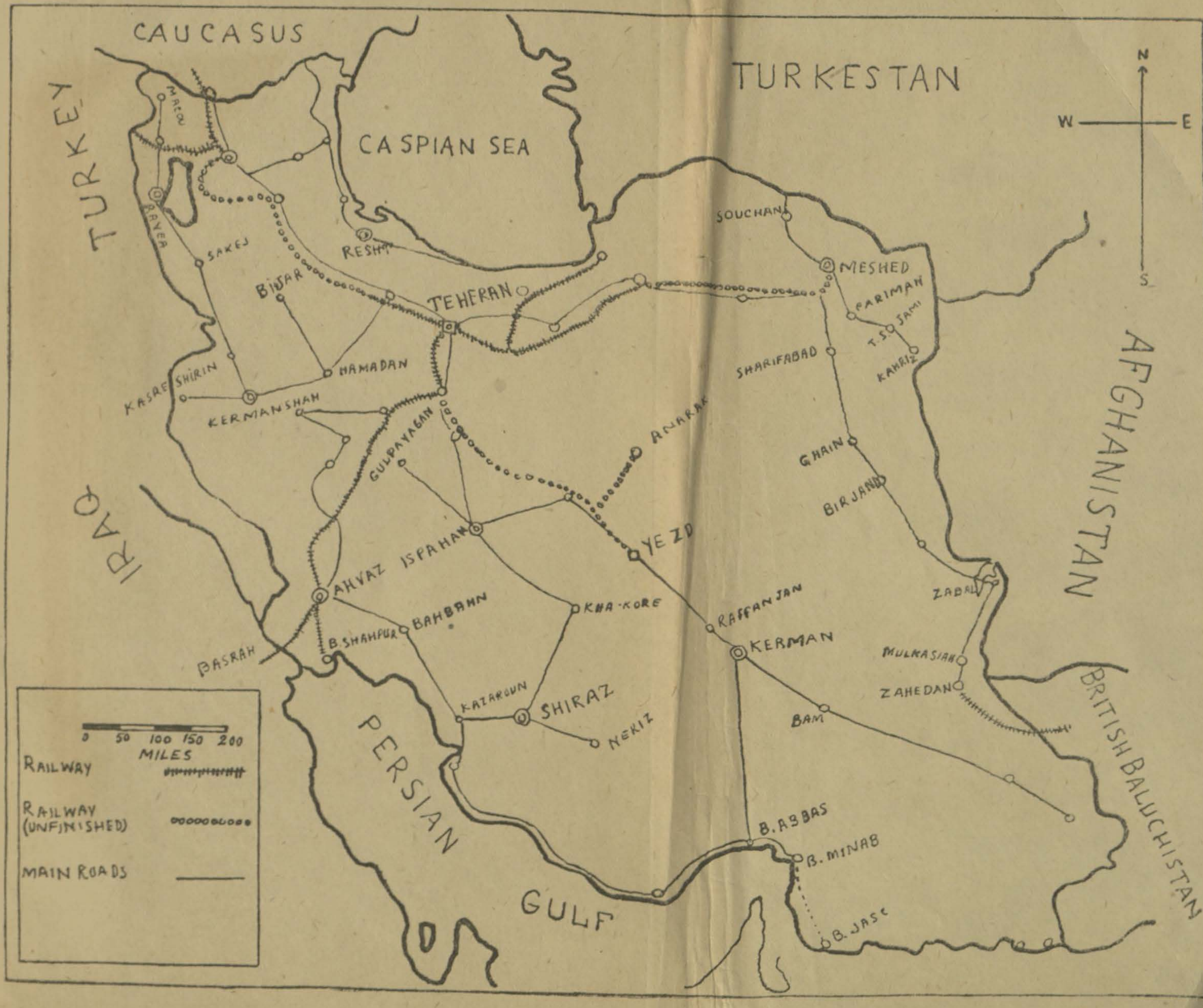
A short trip of the town of Resht, capital of the province of Gilan and the centre of rice cultivation and silk industry. Departure for Pehlavi *via* Qazian to board the steamer for Baku after having gone through the customs and passport formalities.[1]

[1] Hotels Recommended :—

Pehlavi Grand Hotel ; Resht-Hotel Iran; Ramsarya-Hotel Ram arya ; Chalus-Hotel Makhsous ; Babulsar-Hotel Babulsar; Ashraf-Hotel Ashraf ; Shahi-Hotel Shahi ; Tehran-Hotel Firdausi or Hotel Khayyam ; Isfahan-Hotel Charbagh ; Shiraz-Hotel Saadi ; Hamadan-Hotel Alborz ; Kermanshah-Hotel Bihstun.

INDEX

MAP OF IRAN


CAUCASUS
TURKESTAN
CASPIAN SEA
TURKEY
N
W
E
S
RESHT
BIJAR
TEHERAN
SOUCHAN
MESHED
FARIMAN
KAHRIZ
SHARIFABAD
HAMADAN
KASRE SHIRIN
KERMANSHAH
ANARAK
GULPAYAGAN
GHAIN
BIRJAND
AFGHANISTAN
IRAQ
ISPAHAN
YEZD
AHVAZ
KHA-KORE
RAFFANJAN
ZABAL
BAHBAHN
B. SHAHPUR
BASRAH
KERMAN
MULKASIAH
ZAHEDAN
KAZAROUN
SHIRAZ
NEKIZ
BAM
BRITISH BALUCHISTAN
PERSIAN
GULF
B. ABBAS
B. MINAB
B. JASC
0 50 100 150 200
MILES
RAILWAY
RAILWAY (UNFINISHED)
MAIN ROADS

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